

Palestinian security officer held by Israel for spying for Syria

DOTAN (AFP) — Israel has charged a member of the Palestinian security forces of spying for Syria following the theft of secret military material in February, military sources said Monday.

Yekhia Kadous, an officer with the Palestinian secret service, was charged with organising the theft in Febru-

ary of an army command car near the Lebanon border containing weapons plus classified maps and communications equipment.

The command car was stolen by an Arab Israeli soldier recruited by Kadous, according to the charges handed down Sunday by a military tribunal in this West

Bank army base.

The weapons in the vehicle, which included a heavy machine gun, were destined for the Palestinian security forces and the maps and other secret documents were to be delivered to Syrian intelligence agents, the army alleged.

Israeli police arrested the

Arab Israeli soldier who stole the command car shortly after the theft and he led them to Kadous, the prosecution said.

Palestinian police returned the stolen weapons to the army but it was not clear if the maps and other classified material from the command car were recovered.

Vanunu's condition improved after release from solitary — brother

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu has become more relaxed since his release from solitary confinement last month and has been accepted by the other prisoners, a brother said Monday.

Mr. Vanunu, who is serving 18 years, will have his first parole hearing next week, said his brother Asher.

British human rights campaigners have collected more than 17,000 signatures on a petition seeking Mr. Vanunu's early release, and plan to hand it to Israeli President Ezer Weizman next week.

Among those who signed

are Archbishop Desmond Tutu, violinist Yehudi Menuhin, former Middle East hostage negotiator Terry Waite and author Harold Pinter, said a statement by the London-based Campaign to Free Mr. Vanunu.

Mr. Vanunu, who was convicted of treason for giving information about Israel's nuclear programme to The Sunday Times of London, was held in isolation from 1986 until last month.

Mr. Asher Vanunu said he visited his brother in prison two weeks ago and found him in better spirits. "The human contact does a lot for him. He

is less tense and suspicious," Mr. Asher Vanunu told The Associated Press.

Mr. Asher Vanunu said his brother was initially concerned that the other prisoners would brand him as a traitor, but found they were indifferent about his past. "Nobody talked to him about this. It didn't interest anyone," Mr. Asher Vanunu said.

Mr. Vanunu is eligible for parole after having served two-thirds of his sentence, and an early release hearing was to be held April 24, said Orit Messer-Harel, a spokeswoman for Israel's Prisons Authority.

Court rejects Tehran mayor's appeal for release

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian court has rejected an appeal by Tehran Mayor Gholam-Hussein Karbaschi, who is being detained on corruption charges, to be released from prison, newspapers reported Monday.

"A judge at a review court ruled that the mayor's protest was not sustained and approved the original ruling by the special court for offending bureaucrats," Kayhan daily said.

Mr. Karbaschi, a moderate close to Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, was arrested on April 4 in connection with a corruption scandal in the city government.

His detention provoked a political crisis in the Islamic Republic pitting Mr. Khatami's reformist administration against the conservative-led judiciary.

Moderates and their leftist rivals have accused conservative opponents of seeking to weaken Mr. Khatami's government, and pressed to get the mayor released.

But the judiciary has held fast, insisting that it holds irrefutable proof implicating Mr. Karbaschi in acts of "embezzlement and diverting public funds."

Rabbis cut Jerusalem off from main water supply for Passover

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Despite a fierce heat wave, Jerusalem has been cut off from Israel's national water carrier for Passover out of fear the water supply could be tainted with leaven, which is banned by Jewish religious law during the holiday, officials said Monday.

Since the start of the eight-day Passover holiday on Friday, drinking water for Jerusalem's 600,000 inhabitants has been drawn only from ground water supplies underneath the city, officials from the state water company said.

In past years the underground water has been sufficient for the city during the holiday, but this year a heat

wave has boosted water consumption and led to a sharp drop in water pressure, the officials said.

Officials appealed to the population to limit their water use for the rest of the week.

Normally, Jerusalem receives its water via pipeline from the Sea of Galilee in northern Israel.

But the waters of the lake cannot be guaranteed free of microscopic amounts of leaven, so rabbis in Jerusalem's large ultra-Orthodox community demand each year that the city be given an alternative source of tap water.

For the strictest ultra-Orthodox Jews, even a crumb of bread in the Sea of Galilee is sufficient to make the water

non-kosher for Passover.

Elsewhere in the country, observant Jews worried about unknowingly consuming leaven must drink mineral water deemed kosher for Passover.

Passover, which ends at sundown Saturday, celebrates Jews' escape from slavery in Egypt, considered the defining moment in the creation of the Jewish people.

The prohibition on consuming or even owning leaven or products containing leaven during Passover derives from the biblical account of the exodus which says the Jews fled Egypt so quickly they had no time to let bread or other baked goods rise.

During Passover Jews eat unleavened bread, or matza.

Baghdad accuses U.N. rapporteur of being U.S. agent

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Baghdad accused the special rapporteur of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, Max van der Stoep, of being a U.S. "intelligence agent" Monday after he published a report on political executions in Iraq.

"After its failure to launch a military assault on Iraq, Washington is turning to one of its intelligence agents named van der Stoep to spread lies and put out idiotic reports that no one will take seriously," the official daily Al Qadisiya said.

In his report made available to the press Saturday, the Dutch rapporteur said that "on the basis of all available information" it was "highly probable" that Iraq had conducted "more than 1,500 summary, arbitrary or extrajudicial executions for political purposes" last year.

"This report is laughable and cannot be taken seriously by the international community," the Baghdad daily said, adding that Iraqis "know very well the suspect role the Dutchman is trying

to play at the behest of Washington and Zionism."

The U.N. special rapporteur has not been allowed to visit Iraq since 1992. His report is based largely on information gathered in neighbouring Turkey in February this year.

"The special rapporteur notes with concern that no response from the government of Iraq has been received to date," his report stated.

The U.N. Human Rights Commission is in session in Geneva until April 24.

Turkey to try Italian reporter over Kurdish separatist links

DIYARBAKIR (R) — An Italian reporter arrested in southeastern Turkey during a Kurdish separatist protest last month faces up to three years in jail if convicted of links to Kurdish guerrillas, lawyers said Monday.

The prosecutors' office has asked for my client to be jailed for between one to three years," Muharrem Erbey, the journalist's lawyer, told Reuters in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir.

The city's main prosecutor accused journalist Dina Frisullo in an indictment of provoking "hated and enmity among people," Mr. Erbey said.

The European Parliament has warned that the case could further damage Turkey's bid to join the European Union.

Mr. Frisullo and two other Italians were detained by police last month at a march in Diyarbakir to mark Newroz spring holiday, a traditional time of Kurdish protests.

Turkey deported two of the three after Italy protested.

Mr. Erbey said he believed the reporter had not committed any crime and he would apply to the court on Monday for his release. It was not immediately clear when his trial would start.

Relief supplies reaching southern Sudan — official

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Massive food aid is reaching southern Sudan overland and more is on its way through airdrops, a senior relief official was quoted as saying Monday.

Some 34 truckloads of food arrived recently at Raja, in Bahr Al Ghazal, for distribution in the troubled region. Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Hussein Al Obeid told the official Al Jumhuriya newspaper.

"Efforts are continuing for delivery of the largest possible quantity of food"

before seasonal rains begin, he added.

Dr. Obeid said the Khartoum government had agreed to a U.N. plan to airdrop relief to 22 districts, "most of which" are controlled by southern rebels, "in appreciation of the humanitarian conditions experienced by the citizens in those areas."

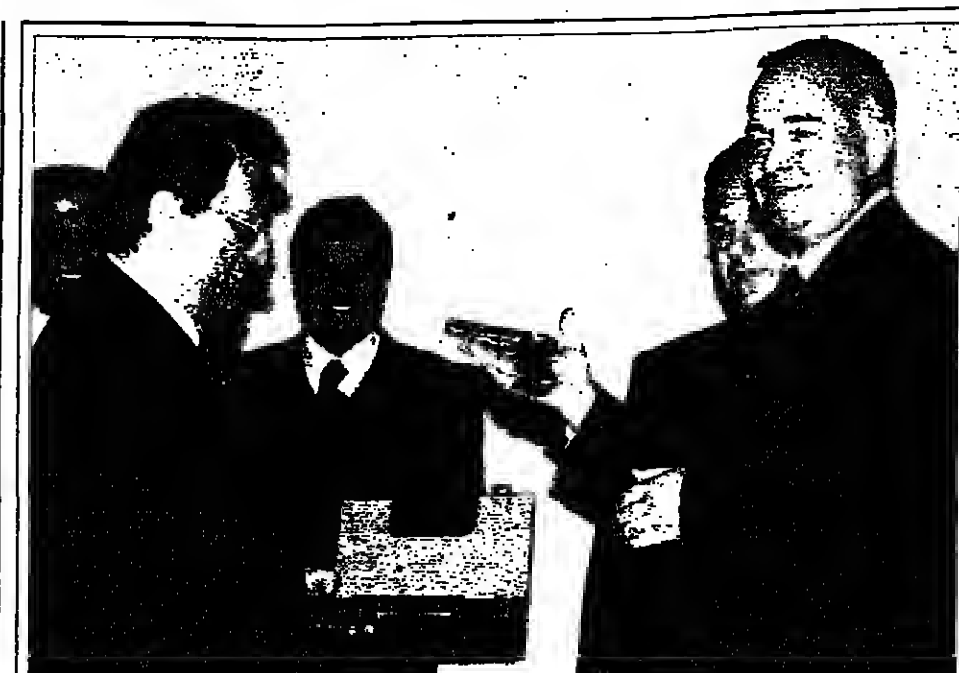
The Sudanese government suspended all flights into Bahr Al Ghazal on Feb. 4 during fighting for the town of Wau between government troops and the rebel

Sudan People's Liberation Army.

The suspension was partially lifted three weeks later following intervention by the United Nations, and further eased in mid-March.

Humanitarian organisations estimate that some 350,000 people are threatened by famine in Sudan, in particular in the south.

Dr. Obeid said that government-held areas in southern Sudan "do not suffer any food shortage or famine."



THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN: Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov (R) Monday shows off a golden pistol presented to him by Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz (L) after a signing ceremony. Mr. Karimov, worried by Islamic fundamentalism in his own backyard, said on Monday he admired modern Turkey's secularist traditions and called for stronger ties with Ankara (Reuters photo)

Probe on former Turkish premier may end her career

ANKARA (AFP) — The Turkish parliament is to hold a crucial vote Tuesday on whether to launch an inquiry into former Turkish Premier Tansu Ciller's personal fortune, a process that may end her political career, parliamentary officials said Monday.

Ms. Ciller, a conservative opposition leader, came under pressure last month when MPs from three government parties lodged a motion seeking to investigate her personal assets. She is accused of corruption in raising her fortune.

"Sources of the huge assets of Ciller and her family are unknown. We urge parliament to investigate these sources and check if this is the outcome of corruption," reads the appeal by the MPs headed by those from the Motherland Party of Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz.

Ms. Ciller and Ms. Ciller are political arch rivals, both seeking to become leaders of Turkey's conservative flank.

Motherland, the two other parties in Mr. Yilmaz's coalition and a separate left-wing party all favour the investigation against Ms. Ciller. The four parties form a governing

majority in parliament.

"Yilmaz and his partners seem determined to eliminate Ciller from Turkey's politics through a parliamentary process," Ankara-based political analyst Kemal Can said.

If the appeal is approved, a parliamentary committee will be set up to investigate Ms. Ciller's personal fortune.

In the event a committee report to be prepared within two months accuses Ms. Ciller of corruption and parliament's general assembly upholds the report, a trial could be held in the constitutional court.

Under the Turkish constitution, any MP convicted by the constitutional court is barred from politics.

"Yilmaz's plan is to get rid of Ciller and seek to unite his Motherland with Ciller's True Path Party," Mr. Can said.

Ms. Ciller, Turkey's first woman premier, who ruled between July 1993 and March 1996, has long been accused of corruption during her term.

She agreed to a coalition deal with Islamist leader Necmettin Erbakan in June 1996 and became foreign minister and vice-premier in an Islamist-led government.

But that government fell one year later after major disputes with Turkey's powerful secular military which charged Mr. Erbakan with encouraging Islamist activism.

The constitutional court, Turkey's highest judiciary body, in February dissolved Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party for undermining the secular regime and barred him from politics for five years.

"Phase one was the closure of Welfare. And for Yilmaz, the planned phase two is Ciller's elimination, so that Yilmaz will have a stronger position in the next general elections," Mr. Can said.

Ms. Yilmaz announced earlier this month that he would seek early legislative elections next year, before the scheduled time in late 2000.

Ms. Ciller, who narrowly escaped three parliamentary motions accusing her of corruption during the Islamist-led government's term, denies the charges.

The government parties charge Ms. Ciller with illegally acquiring assets worth \$2.5 million during her prime ministry, the Istanbul daily Sabah said.

Italians begin study of ancient Egyptian trade

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — An Italian archaeological team has begun the first-ever excavations on an Egyptian Mediterranean islet used to dock ships from the Ptolemaic period until the days of the Byzantine empire.

Paolo Gallo of the University of Pisa said his team was studying ancient Egyptian trade with the Greeks, Phoenicians and other Mediterranean peoples by digging on Nelson islet, off the town of Abu Qir, five km east of the port city of Alexandria.

The islet was named for Britain's Admiral Nelson, who destroyed Napoleon's fleet off Abu Qir, which in ancient times was the major Egyptian port of Canopus.

"Ancient Canopus was completely destroyed by modern Abu Qir and so it's very difficult to find anything while Nelson islet was preserved because it was in a military area where only a few fishermen went," Mr. Gallo said.

"In 1798 when British sailors wanted to bring ashore their ships, they discovered a Ptolemaic-era dock, but the islet was used from the 30th dynasty until the Byzantine period," from 380 BC to 644 AD, he said.

The team, headed by Mr. Gallo, includes two other archaeologists, a mining engineer, two topographers and a pottery expert.

They will begin mapping out the area, "then in the autumn, we will begin to study ancient Egyptian trade from what we find on the islet," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

16:10Cartoon — C.R.O.
16:30French programmes
18:00 Quiz Show — Small Talk
18:30Drama — Border town
19:00Le Journal
19:15 Doc. — De Cause Affecter
19:30News Headlines
19:35 Comedy — Pride and Joy
20:00What Would You Do?
20:30Encounter
21:10Drama — Acapello Bay
22:00News in English
22:30 Feature Film — "Cut Squad"
23:59Metro Cafe
00:30End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:43Fajr
06:04(Sunrise) Duha
12:36Dhuhr
16:12Asr
19:08Maghreb
20:28Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swefieh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4622366

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811.
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifieh Tel. 5920146
The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church 771331

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Hot, dry weather will prevail for

the coming days. Temperatures will rise above average by 8-10 degrees centigrade, and winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot, dry winds will be southerly moderate and seas choppy.

Amman17/24
Aqaba28/40
Deserts16/36
Jordan Valley25/41

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 32, Aqaba 39 Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 14 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Al Tislaq757253
Dr. Bahjat Bader832642
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim830432
Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi893542
Ferdows pharmacy778336
Al Asama pharmacy4637055
Al Salama pharmacy4636730
Yacoub pharmacy4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 4632672
IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu281484
Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi985445
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue4630541
Civil Defence Emergency.....199
Rescue Police 192-4621111-4637777
Fire Brigade.....4617101
Blood Bank.....775121
Highway Police.....543402
Traffic Police.....896390
Public Security Dept.....4630321
Hotel Complaints.....5608800
Price complaints.....5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs.....5661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio774111
Water Authority5680100

J. Electricity Authority

.....815615
Electric Power Co.4636381
RJ Flight Information.....44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery5921199
The Islamic, Abdli5666151/7
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 836813, 856856
Luzma4630195
Khalidi Maternity.....4642816
Alkaleh Maternity.....4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman.....4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5669131
University Hospital845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279
Al-Ahli, Abdli5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital09/983323
Zarqa National Hospital 17:05
.....09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital09/986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

.....09/99099
00:30Geneva (RJ)

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital 021275555
Greek Catholic Hospital02127275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital021247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:30Damascus (RJ)
07:30Jeddah (add) (RJ)
07:45Sanaa (RJ)
08:00Aqaba (RJ)
09:00Brussels (add) (RJ)
10:15Jeddah (add) (RJ)
10:40Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:25Beina (RJ)
15:00Tozour (add) (RJ)
15:30Jeddah (add) (RJ)
15:50 New York, Brussels (RJ)
17:05Cairo (RJ)
18:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 London, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights

13:00Riyadh (SV)
13:30Aden (TY)
14:25Munich (LH)
15:00Istanbul (TK)
18:05Kiev (6U)
18:30Dubai, Damascus (EK)
19:00Paris (AF)
20:25Tel Aviv (LY)
21:10Beirut (ME)
21:40Cairo (MS)
23:35Lamaca (CY)
23:40Amsterdam (KL)
00:55Bucharest (RO)
03:00Rome (AZ)
04:25London (BC)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:45Aqaba (RW)
10:05Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:20Tel Aviv (RW)
19:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:20Aqaba (RW)
23:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
08:45Aqaba (RW)
10:05Amman (QAIA) (RW)
10:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:20Tel Aviv (RW)
19:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
22:20Aqaba (RW)

Beirut (RJ)

10:00Jeddah (add) (RJ)
12:00Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
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12:15Brussels (RJ)
13:00 Vienna, Geneva (add) (RJ)
13:15Cairo (RJ)
13:55Frankfurt (RJ)
14:00London (RJ)
16:45Madrid (RJ)
20:30 Brussels, Paris (add) (RJ)
21:20Jeddah (RJ)
00:10Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
02:00Jeddah (add) (RJ)
02:00Damascus (RJ)
05:15Jeddah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

07:25Frankfurt (LH)
14:30Riyadh (SV)
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16:00Istanbul (TK)
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19:30Dubai (EK)
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00:40Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
01:55Bucharest (RO)
04:00Rome (AZ)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
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10:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
18:45 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
18:55Tel Aviv (RW)
21:30Amman (QAIA) (RW)
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Agreement signed for recycling project in Amman Municipality

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed Sunday evening between three non-governmental organisations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to recycle waste products within the Greater Amman area.

Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi, who attended the signing ceremony, said the project aims at combating pollution. He thanked the parties involved in the project — the Jordan Environmental Society (JES), the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), the Arab Women's Society (AWS) and the UNDP — for their interest in protecting the environment.

Jorge Lissner, UNDP resident representative in Jordan, stated that recycling is one of the ways to help protect the environment, which he said is threatened by waste, desertification and the danger of contaminated water.

Mr. Lissner announced that the UNDP has donated JD30,000 to the recycling project.

JES President Ahmad Obaidat underlined the importance of collecting solid waste materials like paper, aluminium, plastic and glass, to be recycled and called on other Jordanian NGOs to join hands with the consortium of the three local organisations to ensure the success of this project.

According to the recycling project director, Hala Obaidat, the three organisations are aiming to protect natural resources, reduce the amount of waste through collection campaigns in cooperation with the Amman Municipality, reduce the amount of gas emissions, and raise public awareness on protecting the environment.

Municipality begins moving headquarters

Meanwhile, the Greater Amman Municipality has begun transferring its offices from Prince Mohammad Street in downtown Amman to the new city hall located in the Ras Al 'Ain district.

Dr. Abbadi, who made the announcement Monday, said all municipality departments will reopen their doors to the public at the new premises on April 18.

He appealed to the public to refrain from calling at the old municipality complex on Wednesday and Thursday to allow municipality staff to complete the moving process.

The mayor said the new premises have been provided with all necessary facilities, including a parking lot, a nursery, and a cafeteria, for the benefit of municipal employees and the public alike.

Media ban on Naddeh case ordered by judiciary — Ensour

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government on Monday defended tough measures against a local newspaper after it defied a news blackout imposed by the state prosecutor on last week's grisly killing of three prominent Jordanians.

"Some of the weeklies and dailies were critical of the government's position not to publish anything on the [murder] case" to safeguard the investigation, Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Abdullah Ensour told a regular press briefing.

"It was the judge supervising the investigation that ordered the ban, not the government, and we respect his decision," he added.

"The media has no right to complain or violate the ban," said Dr. Ensour, defending a security sweep on the daily.

"It is not a case of public freedom. The newspaper that will not abide by law is hurting the nation, justice and morals. This is a matter that deserves denunciation."

He said the crime was "purely criminal, with no political motives behind it."

Veteran lawyer Hanna Naddeh, his son Suhail and psychiatrist Awmi Sa'ad were found dead on Wednesday at the latter's clinic.

The police only allowed it to hit newsstands after senior officers read the article and authorised its release, the newspaper said, adding that the ban and the measures taken to enforce it were illegal. Other dailies either abided by the ban or ran stories that were carried by the official news agency and state television.

Al Arab Al Yawm said the newspaper had sent letters to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the ministers of interior and information to protest Friday's "harassment" of newspaper staff.

"We are not trying to revolt or to defy the laws, but we do not think that preventing the media from covering the case is useful," the newspaper's editor Saleh Qallab said.

"The government should know that the media can do a lot to help them in this case."

Al Arab Al Yawm said the newspaper had sent letters to

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Abdullah Ensour, Ministry of Information Undersecretary Ahsan Ramzi (l), and Press and Publications Department chief Bilal Tal address Monday's press conference (Petra photo)

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and the ministers of interior and information to protest Friday's "harassment" of newspaper staff.

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German equipment to arrive Thursday for military expo

AMMAN (J.T.) — A higher committee representing the organisers of a military equipment exhibition to be held in Amman later this month Monday said 80 foreign firms and 30 local firms applied to take part in the event.

The first shipment of equipment for the exhibition, scheduled for April 28-29, will be supplied by German firms and is scheduled to arrive Thursday, according to an announcement by the committee.

The exhibition, organised by the Jordanian-based Contingent and Operational Procurement Exhibition (COPEX) in conjunction with the Jordan Armed Forces, will be inaugurated under Royal patronage at the King Abdullah Military Air Base and will be open to the public.

Among the countries taking part in the exhibition are the U.S., Britain, Germany, Russia, France and Romania, according to the organisers. The participants will be exhibiting small arms and light artillery, helicopters, night vision equipment, land and navigation systems, field support weapons, and radar and communications systems.

The Israeli government will not be participating in the event, but several Israeli firms are expected to attend, the organisers said.

The committee said it held a meeting Monday to put the finishing touches on a media and information campaign to promote the 1998 COPEX exhibition, noting that a number of organisations including the Amman municipality, the Public Security Department, and the Ministry of Public Works are involved in the final preparations.

The exhibition will coincide with the 35th anniversary of the Jordanian Special Forces, and live demonstrations and airshows will be held during the event in observance of the anniversary.

Water ministry announces plans to increase output from Disi aquifer

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The underground waters of the Disi aquifer, in southern Jordan, will soon be pumped out and piped to Amman for domestic use at the rate of 100 million cubic metres (MCM) per year, officials have told the Jordan Times.

"We could say that the realisation of the project is imminent," Qusayy Qutayshat, secretary general at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, said yesterday.

"We are planning to act on a 'Build, Operate, and Transfer' (BOT) basis," he added.

Jordan is currently exploiting around 60 MCM of Disi water yearly for agricultural use.

"We intend to use that water to meet Amman's domestic and municipal demand, as well as increase the flow to the rate of 100 MCM per year,"

Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin told the Jordan Times in a recent interview.

The Disi aquifer is part of an extensive sandstone formation which runs under North Africa, the Fertile Crescent and Saudi Arabia, the minister said.

"As a function of location, water quality changes. It is brackish in the Negev, a bit brackish in Wadi Araba, and sweet in Disi," according to Dr. Haddadin.

He added that Jordan has already notified neighbouring Saudi Arabia through the appropriate diplomatic channels of its intention to exploit Disi water.

"The Jordanian use, however, will not affect Saudi Arabia or vice-versa, as long as we both pump the water away from our borders," Dr. Haddadin said, adding that Saudi Arabia is already exploiting its underground water.

"This is fossil water, and not renewable water, so there is no risk that neighbours could affect each other, as it happens when one country intercepts the flow of a river," Dr. Haddadin explained.

According to official figures, Jordan's renewable water resources are 750 MCM a year, well below the annual consumption of one billion cubic metres.

The ministry also estimated that the Kingdom's water deficit in all uses will grow from about 222 MCM in 1995 to 251 MCM by the year 2011.

Jordan recently secured \$630 million in grants and loans for water projects to be implemented over the next five years, in the framework of a huge Water Sector Investment Programme for the coming 14 years.

Additional water supplies were central to the 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Majali asks transport ministry to restructure country's passenger services

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday said the Ministry of Transport should conduct a comprehensive study on restructuring the transport system to promote passenger services both within Amman and between the capital and other towns in Jordan.

Speaking during a visit to the ministry, Dr. Majali urged it to give due attention to all facets of transport, including land, maritime and air transport, saying that it is the most basic component of the economic sector and plays a leading role in the creation of an appropriate investment climate.

The prime minister said Jordan seeks to develop the most

modern transport facilities and modernise land transport fleets.

He said that the Ministry of Transport should also install bus stops with public utilities.

Since the ministry is the prime party concerned with the transport sector in Jordan, it should have the authority to issue licences to operate buses on external routes, rather than other departments, he added.

Dr. Majali also urged the ministry to speed up procedures for Jordanian and Arab merchants who import or export goods via the Aqaba seaport.

In particular, he said, laboratory tests conducted on certain imported goods should be

facilitated and a central laboratory should be established to take care of this procedure.

The prime minister stressed the importance of railways in reducing the congestion along various routes linking main towns. He urged the ministry to finalise studies on the construction of railway system.

Minister of Transport Sami Gammo and heads of the ministry departments presented a briefing on studies concerning transport and the construction of railways, as well as air transport and plans for development.

Mr. Gammo also spoke about plans for modernising airports and promoting the work at Aqaba port.

Iraqi students without residency can continue studies — official

By Mohammad Ben Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The government has allowed Iraqi students without residency permits to continue their studies at Jordanian schools, according to an official.

The decision, taken on humanitarian grounds, took effect as of yesterday, added the Ministry of Education official, who requested anonymity.

The ministry allowed some 5,000 Iraqis with no residency permits to attend Jordanian schools earlier this year, provided they worked on obtaining a permit.

The official said studies are under way to determine if the ministry could provide similar exemptions to Iraqi students during the 1998-1999 academic year.

According to rules, non-Jordanian students — except Lebanese, Syrian and Gulf citizens — who are attending private and public schools in Jordan need a valid residence permit to be able to pursue their studies.

"The Ministry of Education, in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, is expected to study the cases of these Iraqi students and issue a similar exemption for the 1998-1999 school year," the official told the Jordan Times.

Jordan is home to around 120,000 Iraqis, but only 30,000 of them have formal residency, officials said.

Former communist leader retracts accusations of U.S. funding to party

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Retracting his previous accusations, former communist leader Yacoub Zayadine put an end to a recent scandal over alleged U.S. funding to the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP).

Dr. Zayadine declared before the JCP Central Committee that "he did not mean" his previous statements on the party's connections with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), a JCP press release said yesterday.

Dr. Zayadine, who was JCP secretary general from 1987-1997, wrote in an Arabic daily late last month that "the CIA infiltrated the oldest political parties, such as the JCP, by giving huge amounts of money to some of their leaders."

In a column published last week in the Arabic weekly Al Majd, Dr. Zayadine reiterated his allegations, expressing regret that political parties should rely on financial assistance from the CIA, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), or other North American agencies for their survival.

But, according to a JCP

leader present at a Central Committee meeting on Sunday, Dr. Zayadine "admitted that he had made a mistake."

Amal Nafa'a, editor-in-chief of the JCP official organ Al Janahat, told the Jordan Times that Dr. Zayadine pledged to publish a retraction in the press and insisted his apology be included in the meeting's minutes.

"He also voted in favour of the press statement announcing the retraction of his previous allegations," Mr. Nafa'a added.

Yesterday's press statement also banned all JCP members from discussing "the party's internal matters with the press."

Responding to criticisms that such a ban was undemocratic, Mr. Nafa'a said: "As a party, we have specific bodies and committees in charge of deciding each issue. Once the party's bodies reach an agreement, we will publish it. All parties obey this rule, here and abroad."

The JCP last week strongly rejected Dr. Zayadine's allegations as baseless and unfounded, and threatened to take him to court.

The 76-year-old leader man-

aged to maintain the party after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which dealt a heavy blow to communist groups worldwide.

More recently, he led the party through a major schism, which led to the formation, in 1992, of the Jordanian Democratic Unionist Party (JDUP), headed by veteran politician Issa Madanat.

The JCP, however, continued to be plagued by internal divisions, and Dr. Zayadine's mainstream faction was soon outnumbered by the so-called "Leninist cadres," a faction dating back to 1970 and grouping the communists who sided with the government during the Black September conflict.

"In the last few years, Dr. Zayadine was almost held hostage by the Leninist cadres, which was controlling almost all posts in the party, apart from the chair of secretary general," said a political analyst.

During the party's last elections, in December, Dr. Zayadine left the stage to the younger Munir Hamameh, widely indicated as one of the most prominent figures in the "Leninist cadres."

Heat wave has damaged crops — ministry

AMMAN (J.T.) — The current heat wave affecting the country has caused damage to agricultural produce and fruit trees, especially in the Jordan Valley, according to the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday.

Ministry sources were quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that the current heat wave, which has registered temperatures 10 to 12 degrees above normal averages, has dealt a heavy blow to cereals, citrus fruit and early ripening products, with damage in some cases reaching 50 per cent.

The ministry's agricultural extension service advised farmers to spray their crops with water in the early hours of the day to reduce the effects of the heat and urged them to ventilate crops growing under plastic sheets.

Meanwhile, the Meteorology Department said the heat wave will continue Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and scattered showers are expected in the southern and eastern regions of the country.

Temperatures in Amman have reached 34 degrees Celsius but in the Jordan Valley they reached a high of 39 degrees, according to the department.

House committee asks for arrested journalist's release

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Lower House of Parliament committee on Monday urged Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to release a journalist working for the independent Al Arab Al Yawm Arabic newspaper who was arrested early yesterday.

Deputy Mohammad Azaideh, head of the House's committee on public freedoms and human rights, asked Dr. Majali to free Yousef Gheishan, 41, also an editor and satirical writer at "Abed Rabbah," a weekly tabloid owned by the Riyadh Al Hroub group, which publishes Jordan's oldest weekly, Shihan.

Mr. Gheishan's family said 15 security agents stormed the house of Mr. Gheishan at midnight Sunday.

"They searched the whole house and took everything that had his handwriting on it, his files and archive," his brother, Nabil Gheishan, told the Jordan Times.

No reason was given for his arrest, said the brother, who also works for Al Arab Al Yawm.

The 11-month old Al Arab Al Yawm has been more aggressive in reporting on local issues, including the recent killing of three Jordanians despite a ban by the state prosecutor.

During a press conference yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Abdullah Ensour said he could not comment on the reason behind his arrest, but said he hoped Mr. Gheishan, a Christian, would be freed before Sunday to celebrate Easter with his family.

Bilal Tal, head of the Press and Publications Department (PPD), said he was unaware of any "lawsuit filed against him" by his department, which monitors the coverage of all foreign and local media to ensure they do not violate the penal code and the Press and Publications Law.

"Mr. Gheishan might have been arrested for any reason, including a traffic violation," Dr. Ensour told the weekly briefing. "I will pursue the

matter."

Mr. Gheishan's family said an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegate, who visited the journalist at the headquarters of the General Intelligence Department, repeated that he was in good condition.

Mr. Gheishan also writes satirical columns for the weekly Al Bilad.

Abdul Hadi Raji Majali, Abed Rabbah's chief editor, criticised the manner in which Mr. Gheishan was arrested and what he described as a "violation of the sanctity of his home."

Mr. Gheishan has been arrested twice in the last three years though no charges have been pressed against him.

what's going on

BALLET

- * Ballet performance by the students of the Abhiyyah School for Girls at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m. (There will be another performance on Wednesday, April 15 at 8:00 p.m.)

FILM

- * German film "Die Angst des Tormanns beim Elfmeter" (with subtitles in English) at Abdul Hameed Shorman Foundation, Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

LECTURES

- * "The Arabic Epigraphic Poems of Granada and General Life" by Salah Jassar at Instituto Cervantes, Jabel Amman on Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 p.m.
- * International Right to Exploitation of Water (in English) by Dr. Christian Ule at the Applied Science University on Wednesday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m.

U.S. slams Bangladesh's strife-torn politics

DHAKA (AFP) — The United States Monday slammed Bangladesh's violence-ridden politics and called on national leaders to strengthen its fragile democracy through compromise.

"If there is one message I would like to deliver to the people of Bangladesh and all political parties, it is political differences must be resolved in a give-and-take manner in parliament and not waged on this nation's streets," U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Bill Richardson said in a speech.

"It is clear that democracy in Bangladesh remains fragile and vulnerable to machinations of political partisanship and rivalry," he told the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

"Compromise, not confrontation, accommodation, not acrimony, must be the words we use to describe democracy. That

includes the United States and it includes Bangladesh.

"Democracy can only succeed in an environment of civility and respect," he said, adding the U.S. was committed to helping ensure that democracy, freedom and human rights took root in Bangladesh.

But Mr. Richardson tempered his criticism with praise for Muslim Bangladesh's progress.

"Bangladesh is also a Muslim country and its track record of democracy breaks many of the conventional negative stereotypes about Muslim countries," he said.

Mr. Richardson, who arrived here earlier Monday on a one-day visit, was speaking ahead of a general strike called for Wednesday by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its allies against a landmark peace treaty signed between the government and tribal rebels in south-

eastern hills.

The opposition claims the pact is "unconstitutional."

"It remains my sincere hope ... that politically-motivated strikes will be the exception, not the rule, in Bangladeshi politics," Mr. Richardson continued.

"We strongly support the evolution of an independent judiciary, a strong and independent human rights commission and greater autonomy for government-run television and radio stations," he added.

To loud applause, Mr. Richardson announced that U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary would visit Dhaka during their South Asian tour later this year.

Mr. Clinton will be the first U.S. head of state to visit Bangladesh since it gained independence from Pakistan in 1971.

On U.S. investment here, Mr. Richardson said, "American businesses are taking notice." In 1996

U.S. investment was a meagre \$25 million and "today it's approaching \$200 million and could top \$1 billion by the turn of the century."

Bangladesh could only prosper if it embraced global changes such as open markets and free trade, he added.

Mr. Richardson is expected to press for greater access for leading U.S. oil and gas exploration firms during talks with Bangladeshi leaders.

Mr. Richardson held talks with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed and BNP chief Khaleda Zia before leaving for India early Wednesday.

He is leading a 15-member delegation which includes U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Karl Inderfurth and other officials on a trip that will also take in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.



The head of North Korea's delegation Jon Kum-Chol (centre) arrives for talks with South Korean delegates amid a crush of reporters in Beijing (Reuters photo)

S. Korea mulls steps to stimulate inter-Korean cooperation

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's ruling camp discussed steps to promote inter-Korean economic cooperation Monday, but stressed fertilizer aid to the North would depend on its reciprocal measures to improve ties.

The stimulus steps were proposed at a policy coordination session of South Korea's acting Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil, government officials and ruling party leaders.

Mr. Kim and other officials agreed to abolish the ceiling on start-up South Korean business investment in North Korea, currently set at \$1 million, party officials said.

Other proposals included tax breaks on South Korean plant exports to North Korea and freer business trips, they said.

But Unification Minister Kang In-Duk said fertilizer aid would be linked to the

North's acceptance of reunions of separated families and other pending issues in landmark government-level talks in Beijing.

"Our position is firm that the issue of providing fertilizer will be discussed on the premise that it contributes to improving inter-Korean ties," Mr. Kang said.

In Beijing Monday, the North's chief delegate Jon Kum-Chol hinted that Pyongyang would keep its doors open to the South to seek ways to ease its food shortages.

"I believe those matters will also be discussed later," Mr. Jon said when asked if the North planned to ask for more help other than fertilizers such as agricultural technology and seeds.

The three-day talks had been put off by a few hours as the North Korean delegation apparently

needed more time to receive directions from Pyongyang.

Mr. Jon had earlier denounced the South for linking fertilizer aid to the North's acceptance for contacts and reunions of separated families and exchanging special envoys.

He stressed the North needed fertilizer in bulk in time for its spring season. "Politics must not interfere with this issue," Mr. Jon said.

North Korea reportedly wants 200,000 tonnes of nitrate fertilizers from South Korea to help alleviate chronic famine in the country.

South Korean officials noted that the 150,000 tonnes of free rice the South shipped to the North in 1995 had done little to improve inter-Korean ties, adding Seoul would only supply fertilizer "piecemeal and over time."

Taleban urge U.S. to recognise their government

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A Taliban diplomat has called on the United States to acknowledge the political realities in Afghanistan, according to an interview published Monday ahead of a high-level U.S. mission's visit.

"It is highly regrettable that the United States has adopted an unrealistic approach towards Taliban who control 80 per cent of the territory including the capital Kabul," said Abdul Hakim Mujahid.

Mr. Mujahid, Taliban ambassador here, told local newsmagazine NNI that the United States should admit the realities and recognise the Islamic Emirate established in Afghanistan.

"We will observe if they have changed their policies," the diplomat said, referring to the coming visit of U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson to Afghanistan for talks with the Taliban and its opponents.

Mr. Richardson, now in Bangladesh at the start of his South Asian tour, is due to make a one-day trip to Afghanistan on April 17. He will be the most senior U.S. official to visit in 20 years.

He is to hold talks with Taliban authorities in Kabul and also meet with leaders of an opposition alliance in northern cities.

The United States has been strongly critical of the human rights record of the Taliban militia, which has imposed its rigid interpretation of Islamic Sharia law in areas it controls.

U.N. wants news on 500 Indonesians before deciding on asylum-seekers

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — The United Nations refugee office said Monday it wanted news of some 500 Indonesians who were detained after deportation from Malaysia before deciding on the fate of 22 asylum-seekers.

Gottfried Koefner, head of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) liaison office here, said "we don't have all the elements to decide" on the 14 Indonesians "holed-up" at its compound.

"We are having a situation where a large number of people were returned but held for questioning. It would be important before taking a final decision to understand what is happening to the 500 people," he told AFP.

It has been two weeks since 14 Indonesians stormed into the UNHCR compound to seek asylum. Another eight scaled walls to make their way into the U.S. embassy Friday.

Mr. Koefner said the UNHCR would "make an effort to get an understanding" on what happened to the 500, as this

may affect its future handling of such cases.

In the meantime, the UNHCR had upon request of the U.S. mission sent officials there to look into their eight cases, he said, but stressed that the final decision was up to the embassy.

The UNHCR also planned to meet with Malaysian foreign ministry officials to "brief them and discuss preliminary findings" on the 14 immigrants and discuss other outstanding issues such as access to immigrants in detention camps, he added.

He noted it was "regrettable" the UNHCR could only interview the asylum-seekers when they crashed into foreign missions.

Both Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur have stood firm and said the immigrants are economic, not political refugees who must be deported amid the regional economic slowdown.

Acehnese immigrants argue they face reprisals back home because of a low-level separatist campaign which has rumbled

on since the 1970s in the province, in north Sumatra to the west of peninsular Malaysia.

But the Indonesian military has denied any reprisals against returning Acehnese, even though 500 were held for questioning after being deported over their alleged links to an outlawed Acehnese separatist group.

The U.S. embassy and other foreign missions in the capital have gone on alert, tightening security at their compounds after 35 Indonesian immigrants gate-crashed into four missions over the weekend seeking asylum.

Apart from the eight at the U.S. embassy, 20 other Acehnese stormed into the French and Swiss embassies while seven entered a Brunei rest house before being swiftly arrested by Malaysian police.

Malaysia, which has deported thousands of illegal immigrants, has been criticised by human rights groups for not discriminating between economic and political migrants.

U.S. firms turned over missile help to China

NEW YORK (R) — A classified defence department report has concluded that scientists from Hughes Electronics Corp. and Loral Space Communications Ltd. turned over expertise to China that significantly improved the reliability of China's nuclear missiles, the New York Times reported Monday.

The scientists from the two companies turned over the information as part of their investigation of a Feb. 16, 1996, crash of a Chinese rocket that Loral had contracted for the launch of a \$200 million satellite, the Times said, citing unnamed officials.

In addition to identifying the cause of the crash — said to be an electrical flaw in the electronic flight-control system — the 200-page accident assessment also discussed other sensitive aspects of the rocket's guidance and control systems, an area of weakness in China's missile programmes, the Times said.

The May 1997 report concluded that "United States national security has been harmed."

The report, whose existence has been secret, prompted a criminal investigation of the companies, the Times reported, citing unnamed officials.

The companies told the Times their employees acted properly but they declined to discuss the matter.

Criminal charges are unlikely to be brought, largely because the investigation was undermined this year when President Bill Clinton approved Loral's export to China of the same information about guidance systems, the Times said.

Mr. Clinton acted despite strong opposition from the justice department, which argued that approval would undercut any criminal case, the Times said.

Loral chairman Bernard Schwartz was the largest personal donor to the democratic party last year, the Times said.

The White House denied any political interference in the issue.

Dock dispute and Aboriginal landrights split Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) — A waterfront dispute and Aboriginal landrights will damage Australia's international reputation and split the nation, senior church leaders warned Monday, as new polls showed a country already divided.

"Waterfront division and the Wik schism are reminding us of the fragility of our national unity," From coastal port to outback station, our national unity is being torn apart by these disputes," Uniting Church spokeswoman Elizabeth Hastings said.

Melbourne's Anglican Archbishop Keith Rayner said the handling of a national docks crisis in which 2,000 union workers were last week sacked by Patrick Stevedores with government backing, was morally questionable.

"I think it's a very dangerous situation," he told national radio.

"The way the government and the stevedores have acted, whilst possibly technically legal, I must say morally it seems to me it leaves a lot to question."

His comments follow an open letter Sunday in the Melbourne Age signed by five prominent church leaders calling on Prime Minister John Howard to show moral leadership or risk Australia's international

reputation in a race-based election over landrights.

Last week the Upper House Senate rejected for the second time the government's so-called "Wik" bill aimed at amending a High Court ruling on the land rights of indigenous

Aborigines.

Under the constitution the government is now empowered to call snap elections following the defeat of its bill.

The church leaders' letter said the parliamentary process had "failed all Australians, undermined reconciliation and brought distress upon the nation."

"We fear that without creative and moral leadership, infused by a sense of urgency, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity may be squandered."

They warned the rights of indigenous Australians were too important to become the political focus of the next election.

Queensland Premier Rob Borbidge, a strong supporter of the Wik bill, called the letter "an absolute disgrace."

"I would invite those church leaders to put their money where their mouths are. If they believe in co-existence ... then they should open up their church properties to co-

existence with Aborigines right across Australia."

Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer said the church had "massively misinterpreted" the issues and should stay out of politics.

"I contest that some of the archbishops, I think, are massively misinterpreting the 10-point (Wik) plan," he told ABC radio.

"The churches have legitimate interests and are not always accurate commentators on matters political." Polls show the country already at loggerheads on both issues.

One poll to be published in the Bulletin magazine this week shows 44 per cent of respondents do not think the government is doing the right thing for all those involved in the native title debate, including cattle farmers, miners and Aborigines.

That compares with 40 per cent who expressed similar doubts in a survey conducted last December. Just 30 per cent were fully behind the government's stance, compared with 36 per cent in December.

A separate poll, also for the Bulletin magazine, shows 47 per cent of those questioned approve of the mass sackings of Mr. Patrick's union workforce, but 45 per cent disapprove.

Dozens of bodies found in mass grave in Afghan province

KABUL (AFP) — A mass grave containing 30 bodies believed to be victims of Afghanistan's ousted Communist regime has been discovered in Kandahar province, the ruling Taliban militia's Radio Shariat said Monday.

The report said the corpses, which all had their hands tied behind their backs, were those of Mujahedeen and religious scholars executed during the Communist era.

The mass grave was found Saturday in a desert near Kotal-i-Murchi, eight kilometres from Kandahar city, the Taliban seat of power in the south-west of the country.

The Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar, visited the grave and ordered that a special cemetery be built for the bodies, it added.

Mass graves containing bodies of those believed to have been massacred during the Communist era have also been found in Kabul and Herat provinces.

The Soviet-backed Communists detained and killed thousands of opponents in the early years of their rule which ran from 1978 until the middle of 1992.

Mexico begins sending out foreigners arrested in Chiapas

MEXICO CITY (AFP) — The first three of a group of 12 foreigners arrested in a military and police raid in southern Mexico over the weekend were put on an aeroplane and expelled from the country, Interior Ministry officials reported.

United States citizens John Michael Sabato, Travis Loller Blaize and Jeffrey Conant Wright were put on an aeroplane with a one-way ticket to Los Angeles late Sunday.

Nine other foreigners — a German, four Spaniards, two Canadians and two Belgians — were being held by authorities at the Mexico City airport awaiting deportation.

The foreigners were arrested along with eight Mexicans and accused of creating a "spurious authority" in the southern Mexican state of Chiapas by founding an "autonomous town" on land that supporters of leftist Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) rebels seized Friday.

The foreigners were expelled for "flagrantly violating the constitution," said Sergio Orozco of the Interior Ministry.

Not only did they participate in political activ-

ities, but they "tried to exercise authority over Mexican citizens that neither they nor the Mexicans had the right to," said Mr. Orozco, adding that chartering new towns was legally only done by legislatures.

When flying out of Chiapas under government escort one of the arrested foreigners shouted: "We haven't been able to see lawyers. We did nothing wrong and we are being deported without even seeing a judge."

One foreigner threw a note out the window complaining that they had not been able to contact their consulates.

The government's hard line became apparent Sunday as police attacked two photographers — one working for Agence France-Presse — as they attempted to photograph the arrested foreigners at an airport here.

"Police were chasing us, shouting, 'get their film,'" said AFP photographer Oriana Elicabe.

Chiapas state public security agents struck a second photographer with rifle butts and tried to confiscate his equipment. The two took refuge in the offices of

AVIACSA, a local airline.

Saturday 800 soldiers and police agents expelled the 600 rebel supporters from land they took over to create the 32nd autonomous town to be founded in the remote area since December 1994.

The EZLN briefly fought the government in January 1994 before reaching a truce.

Tensions in the already volatile state rose following the massacre last Dec. 22 of 45 peasants in the village of Acteal.

Until this weekend, the autonomous towns had been tolerated and touted by Zapatista leader Subcomandante Marcos as unofficial implementation of a 1996 agreement that gave some autonomy to indigenous Maya living in the state.

But that pact has not yet been officially implemented.

Political sources in Mexico City said that it was easier to justify the raid because most of the foreigners present had entered the country on tourist visas and had become involved in political activities.

Botha trial will go ahead, South Africa's truth body says

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Monday dismissed reports that it was trying to sidestep a court showdown with ageing apartheid-era president P.W. Botha.

A report Sunday in the Afrikaans newspaper Rapport said behind-the-scenes efforts were under way to arrange a special

Truth Commission hearing for Mr. Botha if he should change his mind and agree to testify about his role as apartheid's enforcer-in-chief.

But the Star newspaper Monday quoted a TRC spokesman as saying that was "a lot of hot air" and that Mr. Botha would stand trial in George as planned.

"I have carefully considered all the circumstances

and the evidence and I am satisfied that Mr. Botha is fit to stand trial, and accordingly he will attend court Tuesday," Mr. Kahn said.

If convicted of ignoring a subpoena to testify before the commission, the 82-year-old former president faces two years' imprisonment or a 2,000 rand (\$400) fine.

The whole thing is up to the attorney general now. It is out of the hands of the TRC," spokesman Mdu Lembebe said.

Attorney General Frank Kahn said in a statement earlier that the trial would go ahead as planned.

"I have carefully considered all the circumstances

Taleban dismisses proposed change to constitution

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A Taliban diplomat has called on the United States to acknowledge the political realities in Afghanistan, according to an interview published Monday ahead of a high-level U.S. mission's visit.

"It is highly regrettable that the United States has adopted an unrealistic approach towards Taliban who control 80 per cent of the territory including the capital Kabul," said Abdul Hakim Mujahid.

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S. Korea drags

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's ruling camp discussed steps to promote inter-Korean economic cooperation Monday, but stressed fertilizer aid to the North would depend on its reciprocal measures to improve ties.

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Pakistan squads

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Yeltsin dismisses proposed change to constitution

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday dismissed a proposed constitutional amendment to make the head of the Upper House of Parliament acting head of state should the president become incapacitated.

"First of all it's not logical. Second, there will be no modification of the constitution while I'm president," the ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying.

"Finally, there's no reason why we cannot carry on using the (current) arrangements," Mr. Yeltsin told journalists at the Kremlin.

According to the 1993 Basic Law, the prime minister becomes acting head of state should the president prove incapable of carrying out his tasks.

However, parliamentary leaders say that the post of premier is currently vacant because Sergei Kiriyenko, Mr. Yeltsin's 35-year-old candidate for the premiership, has not yet been confirmed in the job by parliament.

Many deputies believe that even if the baby-faced pro-reform technocrat is confirmed in office, his youth and lack of experience mean he would not have the necessary authority to rule Russia as acting president.

The head of the upper house of parliament, the Federation Council, is the experienced Yegor Stroyev, a 61-year-old non-partisan figure regarded as a centrist.

Alexander Shokhin, head of the pro-government Our Home is Russia party, said on NTV television Sunday that his party has proposed the change in constitution with Mr. Yeltsin's approval.

Mr. Yeltsin, who at 67 has already lived almost 10 years longer than average male life expectancy, has suffered a series of health problems which have kept him away from the Kremlin for prolonged periods.

In November 1996 he underwent a quintuple heart bypass after suffering his third heart attack in less than two years on the eve of his reelection as president in July.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (left) speaks to South African Vice President Thabo Mbeki in Beijing. Mbeki's visit is the highest-level South African government visit to China since Pretoria switched its diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing on January 1 this year (Reuters photo)

S. Korean police-students standoff drags on, some stage hunger-strike

SEOUL (AFP) — Hundreds of radical South Korean students staged sit-ins on two campuses in the southern city of Taegu Monday as a standoff with police dragged into its fourth day, reports and student sources said.

The thousands of riot police, who heavily outnumber the students, have since Friday threatened to storm the campuses if the radicals try to hold elections for officers of their outlawed student federation.

Exact figures for the numbers boled up inside the city's Yeungnam University and Kyungbuk campus, were unclear, but student sources said they were in their hundreds, and that a few of them had begun hunger strikes.

Friday when the students gathered for a three day

rally in defiance of arrest warnings, some 200 tried to push their way off the Kyungbuk campus but were blocked by police.

Sunday night another few hundred slipped off campus and ran through city streets shouting, news reports said. But the radical students had not resorted to their trademark firebombs and rocks, and there was no use of tear gas on the part of police.

So far at least eight students have been arrested and some 200 briefly detained and let off with warnings, television stations said.

The radicals, members of the outlawed Hanchongnyon (Federation of University Councils), branded pro-North Korea by Seoul, are calling on the police to allow them to "peacefully" hold an out-

campus election of new office bearers.

The federation is branded "pro-North Korean" by Seoul because it defines the South Korean government as "the puppet government of the U.S. imperialists."

The impasse coincided with crucial talks between the two warring Koreas in Beijing to discuss fertiliser aid and other issues.

The talks are the first direct inter-Korean government dialogue since contacts were scuttled four years ago by the sudden death of former North Korean president Kim Il-Sung.

Through its official broadcasts, Pyongyang has praised Hanchongnyon as true patriots, supporting efforts by its members to rebuild their organisation, battered by two years of arrests.

Pakistan trains crack police squad to combat terrorism

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP) — The first batch of Pakistani police specially trained to fight terrorism and crime gangs passed out from a training school here Monday, officials said.

The police commandos, trained by the army's Special Services Group, will be deployed in Punjab, the country's biggest province where sectarian unrest has claimed hundreds of lives in the past 16 months.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Punjab provincial government leaders attended the ceremony at the Elite Police Training School located in the suburbs of the provincial capital, Lahore.

"My government is determined to protect life and honour of all citizens," Mr. Sharif said in a speech. "Terrorists will be 'crushed' with an iron hand, the prime minister vowed.

Mr. Sharif said the crack

police force would enable the authorities to deal with the menace of terrorism effectively.

Pakistan was rocked recently by a chain of bomb blasts. It blamed the explosions on neighbouring rival India, which denied the allegation as baseless.

The two countries have frequently traded accusations of involvement of each other's intelligence networks in subversion and sabotage.

S. African deputy president cements China ties

BEIJING (AFP) — South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki wound up his nation's highest-level visit to China Monday by meeting the president and the premier in Beijing and pledging closer ties.

"South Africa and China established diplomatic relations on Jan. 1 and I wanted to visit China as soon as possible to see what to do with relations," Mr. Mbeki told reporters.

"China will emerge as one of the principal partners of South Africa ... and we agreed that given the scope and depth of relations that will develop, we will establish a joint commission to incorporate all of these elements," he added.

According to the South African news agency SABA, the two sides also agreed that South African President Nelson Mandela would pay a state visit to China before the end of the year.

"There will be high level visits between our two

countries," SABA quoted Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Aziz Pahad as saying. He added a date had not yet been fixed.

Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian is also expected in Pretoria before the end of the year, while open invitations have been issued to Chinese President Jiang Zemin and new Premier Zhu Rongji, SABA said.

Mr. Mbeki flew into China from Japan Friday and, in an indication of the importance Beijing attaches to the visit, met with Mr. Jiang, Mr. Zhu, new Vice-President Hu Jintao, Mr. Chi and Vice-Premier in charge of foreign affairs Qian Qichen.

"China and South Africa are developing countries without a fundamental conflict of interest and China has consistently supported the struggle of the African people for independence, especially of the South African people in their fight against racial segregation," Mr. Jiang told Mr. Mbeki.

"It is very important for developing countries to increase solidarity and China is willing to develop relations with South Africa with mutual trust, sincere friendship and all-round cooperation," he said, according to state radio.

China, which wooed South Africa with trade and investment opportunities and its traditional friendship with African nations, scored a diplomatic coup when it persuaded South Africa to switch recognition from Taiwan at the start of 1998.

Beijing's trade ministry has already predicted that trade will jump almost 30 per cent this year to \$2 billion from \$1.57 billion last year, compared with \$1.35 billion in 1996.

But exactly how trade and investment will boom is still very much up in the air.

"People here are more familiar with Asian than African economies so we will have to give it a few months so people are able

to do feasibility studies," Mr. Mbeki said.

"You will see the very practical consequences in the growth of our economic situation," he added.

Mr. Mbeki leaves Tuesday for South Korea on the third leg of his Asian tour and is expected to lobby South Korean businesses to think of South Africa as an investment opportunity.

"Essentially what we want to do in South Korea is to sensitize the South Korean government and the business community to the possibility of cooperation with South Africa and Africa," he said.

"Part of the lesson of the financial difficulties in South Korea is that it is necessary to diversify and have access to as many markets as possible," he added.

The deputy president will also make a short stop in Hong Kong before returning to South Africa on April 17.

Belgrade files charges against concentration camp chief

BELGRADE (AFP) — Yugoslav state prosecutors have filed criminal charges in Argentina against a Croatian accused of Nazi-era war crimes, a pro-government daily reported Monday.

Dinko Sakic was the former commander of a Croatian concentration camp where 500,000 people were killed during World War II.

Milan Bulajic, the head of the museum for genocide victims in Belgrade, was quoted by the newspaper as saying he was "in possession of many documents on Sakic's atrocities."

Mr. Sakic, 76, admitted on Argentine television last Monday that he had been in charge of the Jasenovac camp, but denied involvement in any killings.

Mr. Sakic reportedly entered Argentina in 1947 with an Argentine visa and had personal ties to former President Juan Peron as well as former Paraguayan dictator Alfredo Stroessner.

According to the Simon Wiesenthal centre, Mr. Sakic commanded the Jasenovac camp from December 1942 to October 1944 and was personally involved in the murder of numerous civilians.

Argentinian foreign ministry officials said last week that Mr. Sakic could not be arrested because he faces no criminal charges there.

56 dead in Tanzania mine disaster

ARUSHA, Tanzania (R) — At least 56 people were killed in a mining disaster in northern Tanzania following flash floods that caused pits to collapse, Tanzanian state radio reported Monday.

It quoted the head of rescue operations as saying 56 people died and 21 were rescued following Thursday's disaster at Mbuguni southeast of Arusha.

Regional Commissioner Daniel Ole Njoolay said a rescue team set up two days ago had gathered a list of 55 people known by authorities to have entered the Mererani mine and were missing and presumed dead.

But he said the death toll could be higher, since it was possible more miners had entered the area to work illegally.

"They managed to rescue the lives of 21 people. Three people were found dead. We suspect 55 names (of dead people) but it could be more. There could

be 100 people dead," Mr. Njoolay said by telephone from Arusha.

"The names we have so far (are those) that are suspected to be underneath, but reports said that there are other people who might have entered the pits without the authorities knowing," he told Reuters in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

The accident happened at a Tanzanite mine near the northern farming town of Arusha. Workers were trapped as deep as 300 metres after the floods caused 14 pits to collapse.

Tanzanite is a semi-precious stone unique to Tanzania and is mined using relatively primitive methods, often without safety equipment.

Mr. Njoolay said the accident followed a night of heavy rains and the rescue effort was hampered by a lack of equipment and poor communications.

"The area is a hill area and we had a lot of rains and on the night of April 9, there was a landslide in

which a lot of water went down into the narrow pits and therefore some people got trapped underneath," he said.

"The task force has been working round the clock for two days now and has retrieved three dead bodies. Pumping out the water is slow because the equipment is not adequate. We need bigger pumps," he said.

"The rescue team has been digging continually in various pits trying to get out the mud and stones that have been taken down by the flood water."

The state-owned Daily News reported Monday that a list of 56 people, missing and presumed dead, was presented Sunday by mine owners to Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye who visited the area.

The newspaper had reported Sunday that some 90 people were feared dead.

The site is some 40 km southeast of Arusha and has no telephone lines.

Spanish government faces new charges of spying on Basque party

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's military intelligence agency spied on the headquarters of the political wing of the Basque extremist group ETA until 1995, a newspaper reported Monday.

The agency, known as CESID, used wiretaps and video film shot from across the street to monitor activities at the headquarters of the party, Herri Batasuna, in

Bilbao. With this and other high-tech equipment, the agency was able to follow meetings of Herri Batasuna's top leaders, El Pais said.

The paper did not say when this surveillance began or why it stopped in 1995. The paper published what it said were minutes of a Herri Batasuna meeting in which leaders are identified

by code names. CESID already faces allegations of having conducted illegal wiretaps at Herri Batasuna offices in another Basque city, Vitoria.

The defence ministry has announced a probe of those allegations. An investigating magistrate, acting on a suit filed by Herri Batasuna, is also probing them.

Hong Kong warns swimmers of red tide alga

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong warned beachgoers Monday to stay out of the water to avoid a massive algae bloom that has killed more than 1,000 tonnes of farmed fish.

The gyrodinium algae, an occasional phenomenon called "red tide", is far worse than usual this year and Monday appeared off popular beaches.

"Traces of red tide have been found in this beach. Please leave the water," a recorded loudspeaker message warned swimmers at Shek O beach as a red warning flag was raised.

Lifeguards stood by at other beaches — Repulse Bay, Middle Bay and South Bay — warning people of the danger.

A government spokesman said the algae, which he said was believed to cause skin problems in humans, had

killed at least 1,200 tonnes of fish since it appeared in late March.

Made up of microscopic organisms, the algae absorbs much of the oxygen from the water, suffocating fish. It multiplies very quickly and turns swaths of sea a reddish brown.

"We are distributing plastic bags so that the dead fish can be collected and dumped (into landfills), so as not to cause pollution," a spokeswoman for the government told Reuters.

The government said the algae was not toxic. "The agriculture (and fisheries) department has said this algae is not toxic," the spokeswoman said.

Fish breeders reckon they have lost about HK\$70 million (\$9 million) so far, but the government says it still has to assess the losses.

"The government will then

follow up on the compensation," the spokesman said.

The Conservancy Association in Hong Kong said it believed pollution was the main reason why red tide was becoming more frequent and more severe.

"In the 1970s, we had very few red tides. In the 1980s we had more," Hung Wing-Tat, an executive member of the association, said on government radio.

"We can see that as the waters get more and more polluted the number of red tides are increasing."

In the past the algae has usually appeared for just three or four days, compared with about three weeks this time.

The red tide is the latest in a succession of health scares to hit Hong Kong. Last year there was outbreak of avian flu, which was followed this year by cholera.



Ballooning Alex Richie (left) poses with Richard Branson (centre) and Per Lindstrand in front of the Virgin Global Challenger balloon in Marakech before a round-the-world attempt, in January 1997. Richie died in hospital, April 13, from severe injuries sustained in a parachuting accident earlier in 1998, whilst preparing for another attempt to circumnavigate the world in a Virgin balloon (Reuters photo)

Serbian doctors attacked by terrorists

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AFP) — A Serbian medical team was attacked at the weekend by suspected Albanian rebels in a southwestern village of the troubled Kosovo province, a Serbian-language daily reported Monday.

The doctors, who were supposed to vaccinate children against polio, were arrested in the village of Glodjane and their car was confiscated, the daily Jedinstvo said.

It added that the team was abducted to "the headquarters of the Albanian terrorist gang in the centre of Glodjane," where they were threat-

ened with being killed "several times."

"After two hours of being mistreated, the members of the medical team were released, but without their personal things and medical equipment which were seized," Jedinstvo reported, adding that a police probe was underway.

Ethnic Albanians make up 90 per cent of Kosovo's population and since February more than 90 have been killed by Serbian authorities in a crackdown on militants seeking independence.

Belgrade revoked Kosovo's autonomy in 1989.

German man dies after toilet explodes

BONN (R) — A German camper died from injuries received when a camp-site toilet exploded as he tried to light a cigarette, blasting him through a closed window, police said Monday.

Police in the town of Montabaur south of Bonn

said the explosion Thursday appeared to have been caused by leaking gas from the septic tank or a defective natural gas pipe.

The 32-year-old man was taken to hospital suffering from burns, and died Saturday.

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Substituting the God of Israel for the state of Israel

Les mythes fondateurs de la politique Israélienne (The Fundamental Myths of Israeli Politics)
By Roger Garaudy
Samizdat 1996

Editor's note: Following is a review of the first part of the original French text of Roger Garaudy's book.

ROGER GARAUDY is a well-known French writer and philosopher. He overcame to fight for liberty and freedom of opinion. During World War II he was deported to the concentration camps. He wrote several books on communism, religion, Palestine and Israel. One of his latest books is *Les mythes fondateurs de la politique Israélienne* for which he was tried in Paris under the Gayssot-Fabius Law for having doubted the existence of the gas chambers and the number of Jews massacred by Nazi Germany during World War II. He is against bigoted fundamentalism whether Jewish, Christian or Muslim. To combat fundamentalism he produced three books: "Grandeur et Décadence de l'islam", "Avons-nous besoin de Dieu - Vers une guerre de religion" and the book reviewed here.

In 1982 during the invasion of Lebanon by Israel, Garaudy together with the French writers Father Leloog, Pastor Mathiot and Jacques Fauvet condemned this invasion in the newspaper *Le Monde* as being the result of political Zionist logic. All his books have been translated into several languages.

The book under review denounces the political Zionist beresy which consists of substituting the God of Israel for the State of Israel. Garaudy calls the latter the nuclear aircraft carrier of the United States of America, the leader of the

world which holds the Middle East oil the sinews of the development of the Western world. Garaudy says Israel justifies its aggressions theologically by a fundamentalist reading of the Inspired Books thus transforming myth into history. For example the grand symbol of the unconditional submission of Abraham to God and His blessing of all people of the earth have been transformed into a tribal conception and thus "the conquered land" became "the promised land."

A new mythology has developed. Garaudy says, in that the State of Israel is the response of God to the Holocaust as if Israel is the only refuge of victims of the barbarity of Hitler at a time when Yitzhak Shamir himself offered his alliance with Hitler until his arrest by the British authorities for collaboration with the German enemy and for terrorism. Garaudy asks: Does one become anti-Semitic because one says that the Jews have suffered a lot but were not the only people to suffer? Is it just because television shows depict Jews as the only victims? The world forgets that greater genocides occurred in the world. What about the 60 million Indians in America, 100 million blacks in America,

the millions who were savagely killed by the nuclear bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 50 million killed in World War II.

The object of the book is to uncover the ideological disguise of Israeli policy so as to avert its confusion with the great traditions of the prophets of Israel. Garaudy adds that he has never ceased to believe in the messages of the prophets even after thirty-five years of militancy in the Communist Party from which he was kicked out for having stated that "the Soviet Union is not a socialist state."

Garaudy says that he wished to contribute to the struggle for peace but a real

peace founded on truth and international law. He pays tribute to the new Israeli historians of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who together with the Peace Movement of Israelis question the political Zionist myths which led to the killings committed by Baruch Goldstein in Hebron and the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by Yigal Amir.

Is Palestine a promised land or a conquered land? Garaudy asks. And he quotes from the texts of many eminent authors and researchers that showed the so-called promised land given to Israel is a myth because it cannot be affirmed that at some definite point in time, in history, that God preselected himself to an historical person called Abraham upon whom God conferred the legal possession of the land of Canaan. Nor can we agree with certain Christians who consider the promises of the Old Testament as constituting a legitimate territorial claim of the State of Israel.

From the purely Jewish point of view Garaudy quotes Rabbi Hirsch who says: "Zionism wishes to define the Jewish people as a national entity. This is a heresy." Rabbi Elmer Berger stated to the effect that the actual State of Israel is not the accomplishment of a biblical prophecy, that the actual Israeli policy has destroyed the spiritual meaning and significance of Israel. Prophetic tradition shows clearly that the sanctity of land does not depend on its soil nor on its people by its presence on the territory. What is really sacred Rabbi Berger says, and worthy of Zion is the Divine Alliance as expressed in the people's conduct and behaviour. Thus the State of Israel has no right to claim that it is the accomplishment of the messianic divine. Zionist totalitarianism which strives to subdue all the Jewish people by violence or by force, makes this people like others. (Elmer Berger: "Prophecy,

Zionism and the State of Israel).

Garaudy cootests the claim that the Jews or the Israelites are the chosen people or that monotheism was born with the Old Testament. Monotheism was confirmed only at a later date by the prophets between the years 550-539 BC as many deities were adored before that date. However, Monotheism existed in ancient Babylon (God Mardok) and ancient Egypt at the time of the Pharaoh Akhnaton.

The Old Testament especially Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua tell how the Israelites treated savagely the peoples they conquered although some of the stories are mere myths. For example

Garaudy points out, archaeological excavations have revealed that Jericho was uninhabited when the Israelites came in the XIII century B.C. as it was destroyed before that date. Those versions of the Old Testament have taught the modern Israelis to imitate Moses and Joshua in not only plundering Palestine but also in the expulsion and massacre of its inhabitants (See Numbers Chapter XXI para 35, Deuteronomy Chapter XII para 24) Garaudy asks: Did not Sbaroo, Meir Kahane, Meoachem Begin and others treat the Palestinians as the ancient Israelites treated the ancient peoples such as the Canaanites, the Amorites and the Amelakites mentioned in the Old Testament. Did not Menachem Begin follow the example of Joshua when his Irgun troop stormed Deir Yassin and massacred men, women and children so as to frighten the unarmed Palestinians and force them to flee? There are many examples of Jewish fundamentalism: Begin called on the Jews not only to kick out the Arabs but also to seize all Palestine. And Dayan once said: "If we have the Bible and if we are considered the people of the Bible we should also have all the territories of the Bible."

Garaudy quotes several versions from

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the Bible (Exodus, Deuteronomy) and from the Talmud showing the radicalism of Israelites and their apartheid conduct. Haim Cohen a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Israel once observed: "The bitter irony is that the same biological and racist thesis which were propagated by the Nazis and which had inspired the infamous Nuremberg laws have been taken as the basis of the definition of Judaism in the bosom of the State of Israel." (See Joseph Badi, *Fundamental Laws of the State of Israel*) Rabbi Cobeco author of the "Talmud" wrote: "The peoples of the world could be divided between Israel and other peoples taken en bloc. Israel is the chosen people: this is a principal dogma."

This Jewish radicalism, Garaudy says, has served as a model for many radicals. For example Thomas Nelson says in his book: "The Puritans of Massachusetts": "The colonist puritans of America in their hunting of the Indians and possessing their lands, they invoked Joshua and the sacred extermination of the Amalekites and the Philistines."

Garaudy realised that the publishing of *Les mythes fondateurs de la politique Israélienne* would bring upon him the thundering attack of the Jews. He has for nearly half a century published his books without any difficulty from his French publishers. But *Les mythes fondateurs de la politique Israélienne* was published on his own account in Samizdat because he severely criticised the Zionist beresy upon which Israeli policy is based, and such criticism violates a taboo in France since the promulgation of the Gayssot-Fabius Law of July 13, 1990 which has restored in France "the opinion offence" which existed during the Second Empire.

Pascal B. Karmy

Jordan emerges as new hub for training pastors Evangelical school teaches Mideast students

By Kirk Albrecht
in Amman

IMAD SHEHADEH laboured for five years to open a seminary in his adopted homeland of Jordan. As he earned his degree in 1990 from Dallas Theological Seminary, the soft-spoken Shehadeh dreamed of opening a graduate school in Amman to serve as a base for Christians in a region that is more than 90 per cent Muslim.

When he returned to Jordan, few endorsed his vision. Authorities in the Muslim country twice shut down Shehadeh for training without government approval. And many Christian leaders found his original doctrinal statement too restrictive.

But things began to change as Jordan's government worked through democratic reforms that liberalised the country.

Realising he needed to have the government's support, Shehadeh applied again for permission to open a school. The government's Ministry of Culture not only granted approval for the school to open, but also wrote into the school's constitution an article allowing interfaith dialogue with Muslims.

Strategic location

Today, Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary (JETS) is in its third year of legal operation. The

evangelical school has unprecedented freedoms in a Muslim country. In some Arabic-speaking countries, Muslims who convert to Christianity are in danger of losing their jobs, families, or lives.

By embracing a broad doctrinal statement, the 43-year-old Shehadeh has gained the support of numerous churches. Jordanian leaders from the country's five main denominations are on the seminary board.

Already the school has 28 resident and visiting faculty — half of them from Jordan. Nearly 150 students from nine Arab countries — Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, and Sudan — have been accepted to study at the school.

The interdenominational school offers undergraduate and graduate-level training. JETS does not have the governmental or access restrictions of other Christian schools in the Mideast.

Shehadeh says the Middle East is experiencing unprecedented growth in the number of evangelicals. Yet there are not enough leaders to follow up new believers. Of the churches are small, and local leadership has little theological training. But JETS is training 45 Iraqi students to return to a country with only a handful of seminary-trained pastors. JETS students are eager learners. Last year, students started three dozen home groups in

an effort to gain experience in church planting.

Reaching individuals

Jordan's freedoms, its central location in the Middle East, and its peace with Israel since 1994 have all been of strategic importance for JETS.

Nowhere is that seen more clearly than in the life of its students. For example, Rumail Yousef, an Iraqi electrician by trade, remained in Iraq while thousands of his countrymen fled after the Gulf War when United Nations sanctions began to cripple the country's economy. In the midst of economic woes, Baghdad's main evangelical church began to grow. From a core of 25 saints, the church now boasts attendance of 800 on Sundays.

Burgeoning growth meant a greater need for trained leadership, so in 1993 the church sent Rumail away to study theology before returning to help pastor the flock. But his visa to Egypt, where he had applied to study in the Presbyterian seminary in Cairo, never came. After a year's wait, he applied to study at the Baptist seminary in Lebanon, but authorities in that country also turned him away. So Rumail applied for admission to the bachelor's programme at JETS. He saw no other alternative. "JETS can give me the best train-

ing I could get for ministry here in the Middle East, so God opened this door for me," says Rumail, who is being encouraged by professors to stay and finish a master's degree before returning to Baghdad.

Rumail is not alone. Behind impoverished Iraq, the second-highest percentage of JETS students came from war-torn Sudan. For these students, study in Beirut or Cairo is difficult because of political tensions. The hope is that most will return to minister to their own cultures. Because Jordan has friendly relations with both Sudan and Iraq, students can more easily come for training. JETS's reputation with Jordan's security forces means that students can obtain coveted student residence visas.

Extension programmes

The idea of an evangelical seminary in the Muslim-dominated Middle East may seem incongruous. Yet there are at least 15 evangelical theological education institutions in the region, including seminaries, Bible schools, and extension learning programmes.

Jordan is assuming a leadership role. Since 1981, the Programme for Theological Education by Extension (PTEE) in Amman has trained more than 1,000 Christians in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq in Bible and theology.

Through local churches, PTEE fills a crucial role in reaching potential leaders who cannot study in an institution due to location or cost.

"The issue isn't competition with schools like JETS," says PTEE executive director Richard Hart. "The issue is access. Our courses can help Christians identify gifts in ministry calling, which can lead to further training." PTEE is also less expensive: a class costs \$2, while one course at JETS is 20 times as much.

JETS and PTEE are founding members of a new group called Middle East Association for Theological Education. MEATE is trying to help its members share experiences with one another and the international community. "We're aware of what is happening internationally," says Hart. "Arab theological education can stand on its own — it has something to say to the West."

Jordan's openness has come under King Hussein, who has been in power since 1952. His younger brother HRH Crown Prince Hassan has pushed Muslim-Christian relations to a new level with the opening of the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies. The institute has established a working relationship with JETS, and Shehadeh has contributed an article to their journal on the topic "Do Muslims and Christians have the same God?"

Challenges Remain

Limited space and finances are a problem for JETS. "We could easily accept a lot more students if we had the space, the faculty, and administrators," Shehadeh says. Last summer, JETS had 130 applicants; only 11 could be admitted because of limited capacity.

JETS is meeting in rented quarters and needs \$2.5 million to buy land and build new facilities. In February, the Indianapolis-based Overseas Council (OC) announced a \$95,000 gift to JETS.

"When the door opened in Russia we were ready," says OC U.S. board chair Norm Miller. "We ought to be thinking about the same type of response in the Middle East." JETS is young and faces many challenges. While the local church is encouraging, Arab believers have been unable to assume much financial support. Graduates will soon outnumber pastoral opportunities. Still, with an unreached population in the region of 200 million, the need for what JETS can help fill is waiting to be met.

"The home of the early church is the most needy mission field today," Shehadeh says. "We want to see a strong, vibrant church across the Middle East."

— Christianity Today

U.N. report cites suffering of Palestinian children

By Elizabeth Olson

GENEVA — In his third annual report on human rights violations against Palestinians, a U.N. independent investigator says that a large number of children in Gaza and the West Bank are suffering because of violent treatment of their fathers. The behaviour of many Palestinian men who have served terms in Israeli-operated jails and who have been mistreated — and often tortured — is tearing at the Arab social fabric, said Hannu Halinen, the investigator. One result has been that children are "more aggressive, disobedient

and violent." The men develop depression, paranoia, anxiety and post-traumatic stress, causing many to behave violently toward their families, he said in his report, which was issued last month. This has affected some 50,000 children in the Gaza Strip alone, he estimated on the basis of recent trips there.

Halinen, a Finnish envoy in Berlin, made his report to the annual meeting of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, which examines abuses in countries around the world. He is the only special investigator charged with looking into reported human

rights violations by one country alone: Israel. Other investigators look into broader categories of abuse.

His authority does not extend to the treatment of Palestinians by their own police in areas now controlled by the Palestinian Authority.

The children whose fathers have served time in Israel's jails have an "inability to relate to parents, teachers and other children," and tens of thousands of them suffer from post-traumatic stress disorders, he said in his report.

"These emotional disorders have long-term effects, make children

more aggressive, disobedient and violent, affect their dignity and lower their self-esteem," he said.

This hatred, he warned, could "itself be perpetuated later on by those same children."

The Israeli government does not cooperate with Halinen, co-ordinating that his focus on Israel alone is unjust. He relies on information from non-governmental organisations, including health and relief groups, U.N. agencies and Palestinian officials and individuals.

"The tension is so high there, it is clearly difficult to assess what is the most pressing problem,"

he said after releasing his report. He criticised Israel for closing off access from the West Bank and Gaza Strip for various periods in retaliation for terrorist attacks. This leaves many Palestinians in financial straits because so many depend on income from jobs in Israel, he said.

As a result, Halinen said, more children are going to work to help support their families. As many as 25 per cent of such children are believed to be their family's sole breadwinners. Many of these families "eat only one meal a day and significantly reduce their intake of protein,"

he said, and added that anaemia and rickets had increased among Palestinian children. In addition, 56 per cent of families whose families are cut off from such income are forced to borrow money to buy food, he said.

He has urged the 53-country Commission on Human Rights to broaden its mandate to include the Palestinian Authority's treatment of its people. Otherwise, he contends, his mandate "takes for granted that all the violations are by one side — Israel."

Despite his limited charge, part of his 18-page report dealt with

both Palestinian Authority and Israeli mistreatment of detainees. Up to 1,200 people have been detained by Palestinian officials, a situation he attributed to a "complex legal system, lack of legislation, and insufficient training and education." Fourteen people are said to have died in Palestinian detention.

Israel is holding an estimated 3,500 Palestinians in prisons and detention centres. They include seven women and 70-90 youths under 18. Torture is prevalent, Halinen said. He said it included placing boots over prisoners' heads for sensory deprivation, sleep and

food deprivation, exposure to loud music, forcing prisoners to maintain painful body positions, exposure to extremes of cold and heat, and violent shaking.

He concluded that the building and expansion of Israeli settlements had worsened the human rights situation in the occupied territories. He said that if Israel moved ahead with a plan for the disputed Har Homa settlement in largely Arab East Jerusalem, it would affect both the economy and social stability of the Palestinian community in that area.

— The New York Times

Government to forge ahead with privatisation drive despite criticism

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ensur Monday said that the government will move forward in its privatisation process despite criticism from opponents.

Dr. Ensur's statement came following contradictory comments from senior officials on the privatisation of some sectors of the country.

Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani was quoted as saying by a local newspaper that the Kingdom will continue the process of selling 33 per cent of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) to a strategic partner.

But Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hani Mulki said priority will be given to local investors rather than foreign investors to buy most of the government's equity in the profitable JCFC.

The company's officials have repeatedly expressed their opposition to the government decision to sell the bulk of its stake to a strategic partner and urged it to reverse the decision or at least give preference to local investors

rather than non-Jordanian firms.

Criticism was launched also against the government plans to privatise the Jordan Telecommunication Company (JTC) which is one of the Kingdom's most profitable firms.

Dr. Ensur said the government will move ahead in the privatisation process "because the private sector can do a lot of things with more efficiency than the government."

"This is not a sellout of the country or a distribution of the Kingdom's wealth to certain people. We believe that the government role (in the private sector firms) should be brought down... but still we will continue to run some of the services like education and basic health care," Dr. Ensur added.

"Day by day the size of the government should be reduced, including the size of government employees, because we have the largest size of government worldwide," the minister said.

In other remarks, Dr. Ensur revealed that the government will "soon" announce the Aqaba region as a "free zone area."

"The announcement

will be made soon and the whole district will be considered a free zone. The region will not be merely a storage place but a free zone in a comprehensive sense," he added.

He said that the cabinet will hold its next meeting in the southern governorate of Aqaba to discuss a wide-ranging plan to develop the region.

Dr. Ensur emphasised that the meeting will review plans for the seaport, airport, customs, private companies and the establishment of an American university.

"We will discuss all the aspects that have to do with Aqaba region and above all the announcement of the region as a free zone which is of utmost importance," he added.

The minister said Jordan and Qatar will "soon" announce the joint ventures that the two sides will establish in line with an agreement reached during a visit by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to Qatar in 1997.

Worsening economy provokes public discontent in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian economy is coming under growing strain, suffering from hyperinflation, recession and unemployment and causing widespread public discontent.

Economic prosperity and equality have been the central motto of the new government of President Mohammad Khatami, who took office in August, but there are few signs that the economy is moving in that direction.

Amid a shortage of hard currency provoked by a sharp drop in oil revenues, the Iranian currency took a dive this weekend from 5,300 riyals to the dollar to 5,700 riyals.

It came after the central bank raised by 60 per cent the official rate for the dollar sold to travellers in a bid to make it closer to the open market rate, which is now nearly double the official price.

The free-fall, which came after three years of relative stability, is likely to further push up prices of consumer goods, especially imported ones, which have already jumped by an average of 50 per cent in the past month.

The government, which controls around 85 per cent of the economy, raised the prices of a range of fuel products, consumer goods and transportation between 25 per cent and 100 per cent at the start of the Iranian new year, March 21, indirectly triggering further price hikes.

"The government's decision to raise prices has provided the excuse to

merchants and bazaaris to tighten the noose around wage earners," Kayhan newspaper said.

It said the price of milk had gone up by 50 per cent and that of rice by 70 per cent — items which had previously been offered at subsidised rates.

The prices of chicken and red meat have also increased to a level unaffordable to the general population.

There is talk even of raising the price of bread, a staple for those at the bottom of the economic heap which is already heavily subsidised to make it affordable to the poor.

The sharp price hikes in matter of weeks more than offset an average of 18 per cent wage increases for workers and civil servants this year, and have triggered widespread discontent in the capital and provinces.

"For how much longer do we have to see prices rise, while the income of the vulnerable class is fixed?" Khabar newspaper quoted some people as saying in an article on inflation.

"The middle class's declining purchasing power has further widened the gap between the rich and the poor," Kayhan said.

The Iranian economy is presently going through one of its worst periods in the past years," said Resalat newspaper. "It is not a desirable situation and the government should come up with a solution."

Worsening conditions have led to labour unrest as employers, including the government, are hard-

pressed for cash to pay wages on time.

Abol Qassem Sarhadi Zadeh, an MP close to official labour unions, said the state-owned Mellis (National) Shoes company had been forced to borrow money from banks to pay salaries in the past months.

Some production units at the shoe factory, which was nationalised after the 1979 Islamic revolution, lay off workers for two weeks each month "because they are unable to pay them and their warehouses have no more room to stock inventory," he said, quoted by Resalat newspaper.

Unemployment continues to remain high although workers are often protected by strong labour laws, to the chagrin of employers.

The situation together with a shortage of capital and draconian government measures to control prices have discouraged investment, a matter which has exacerbated the existing recession.

Producers often complain of arbitrary taxes as well as fines and punishments imposed by the government as part of a strong-arm campaign to stabilise prices.

Hardline newspapers have in the past two weeks pressured the government to take new steps to curb price hikes, while many economists warn such measures could further harm investment.

The latest fall in the Iranian currency comes after three years of relative stability resulting from the government's move to curb and regulate imports.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There's more attention coming your way. People want you to take more responsibility, and maybe more money. Don't let it go to your head. Don't take a risk or gamble, either. Be slow and deliberative. Tonight you can go out with friends to burn off excess energy.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Some of the little tidbits you hear today you'd just as soon not. You're not much of a gossip, but one of your friends is. You're not vindictive either, although your friend might be. Luckily, this person isn't mad at you. That's a blessing. Just let the melodrama rage on without you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) There's good-sized hassle brewing, but it's not your concern. It involves several other people. Keep that in mind if you feel compelled to intervene. You'll be much more helpful on the sidelines. Not to worry. This is only a temporary condition. They'll have it settled by tomorrow.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Although the last few days have been tense, the pressure hasn't been directly on you. You might even be the hero. You could parlay your negotiation skills into a career advancement, or a better job altogether. You might want to send out a couple of resumes.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If a roommate criticises your friends, acquaintances and plans, don't despair. This person just likes to meddle. It provides a distraction from the task at hand. You might point that out by way of defence. If you tell this person to get back on the job, you'll have less to worry about.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Somebody is trying to push you around. You have the support of your mate or partner, and that's good. The most important support, however, comes from within. Today you're more decisive and calm than usual. Remember that if you start getting nervous, tummy.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Continue with the serious work of making ends meet. You may delegate financial responsibility to another person. Someone you know is better suited to that than you are. You're a good people person, but you might not be that good at managing details.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You're going to be powerful this morning, so don't procrastinate. Make decisions and put them into effect as quickly as possible. Your competition is losing strength, but will have a brief rally. You need to get your plan into effect before that happens.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You're still facing challenges, not the least of which is within your own head. The way to succeed is to get organised. You're tempted to run off and play, but that won't get you where you want to go. Instead of goofing off with your friends, get them to help you solve your problem.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Are you involved in a major renovation or what? It looks like you're either moving, adding a room to your house or building a whole new one. If not, you probably should be. Somebody on your side is an expert in whatever it is you're doing. All you have to do is learn, listen and do what you're told.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You've been learning a lot lately, some of it the hard way. Your teachers are both friends and enemies, as well as someone who doesn't fit into either category. That's the one to watch this morning. The lesson has to do with power and money. This could prove to be interesting, and very profitable.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) That check in the mail could finally be arriving; or maybe, at long last, you're going to get that promised promotion. If you haven't been promised a promotion, put in for one. If that's out of the question, look for a better job. Check out every possibility you can think of.

Birthstone of April: Diamond — Amethyst

IMF sees Asian woes slowing world economy in near term

WASHINGTON (AP) — Asia's financial turmoil will slow down global economic growth this year, but the threat to future advances appears limited so far, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Monday.

Countries in Asia that were hardest hit are not likely to recover until 1999, and Japan, the chief engine of growth in the region, hovers on the brink of a recession, the study said, with zero growth forecast this year. The United States will continue to lead the world economy, although it can expect a big increase in its trade deficit.

"There could be the start of a turn around in South Korea and Thailand this summer or fall," said Michael Mussa, the IMF's chief economist. "For Indonesia it is too early to tell."

Japan is a source of concern...

zero growth will be hard to achieve.

Last week, in an attempt to propel growth, Japan announced a \$125 billion economic stimulus package.

The IMF's extensive semi-annual assessment, the "World Economic Outlook" projects global growth in 1998 at 3.1 per cent compared with 4.1 per cent in last October's report. Its prediction for 1999 is 3.7 per cent.

The report came in advance of a meeting Wednesday of the finance ministers of the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries. The IMF and its sister institution, the World Bank, also are holding their spring meeting later this week.

The IMF, which assembled multi-billion-dollar bailout packages for Thailand,

Indonesia and South Korea last year, said "considerable uncertainty remains about resolution of the (Asian) crisis, one of the worst in the postwar period. Its effects were more severe than they initially appeared," the report said.

But it said the resulting slowdown in world economic growth will be less severe than the ones caused by oil shocks in the mid 1970s and early 1980s.

Reasons for the mild impact include solid consumer spending in most industrialised countries and the limited spillover of the Asian crisis in Latin America and other regions.

Over the next five years, the report said, "global economic growth is still projected to exceed the average rate" of 3.75 per cent in the past quarter-century.

In the United States, the IMF predicted the economy, which grew at 3.8 per cent in 1997, will expand by an inflation-adjusted 2.9 per cent in 1998 and 2.2 per cent next year, compared with a 1998 forecast of 2.4 per cent made last October.

With the U.S. trade deficit "likely to widen substantially," the report said, the dollar might come under pressure, releasing one of the brakes that has been restraining inflation.

Troubles for the dollar, combined with increases in oil prices and continued wage growth, might force the Federal Reserve Board to "significantly tighten" interest rates.

The report said U.S. economic performance last year was "exceptionally favourable with the fastest growth in four

years. The lowest inflation in 32 years, unemployment falling to its lowest level in 24 years and virtual balance in the federal budget for the first time since the early 1970s."

Giving President Bill Clinton's position a boost, the report said anticipated U.S. budget surpluses should be used to shore up the Social Security system to protect it from "the deterioration expected in the next decade."

Contrasting the rosy U.S. picture, the report said Japan is likely to stagnate this year unless urgent measures are taken to stimulate the economy. Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto announced such steps, ordering larger-than-expected tax cuts and increased government spending.

The IMF forecasts negative

growth rates for the three biggest victims of the Asian crisis — Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea — and said Malaysia and the Philippines would be hurt to a lesser extent.

In Europe, the IMF said one group of countries — Britain, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Norway — continue to expand economically and should reduce the risk of overheating. It said Germany, France and Italy, facing record unemployment, need to maintain their recent modest economic growth by stimulating consumer spending.

The report welcomed measures taken by Brazil, Argentina and Russia to protect themselves from Asia's crisis spreading to their countries.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Piece of copper?
- 19th-century round dance
- Pork product
- Filament
- Unburned brick
- Alberto Fujimori's country
- Complexion problem
- This compared to that
- Cupid
- British language
- Maiden name
- Backstreet
- Reciprocal of a cosine
- Wild guess
- School of Paris
- Castle's stronghold
- On the sheltered side
- Interim ruler
- Makes a lawn
- Barracks beds
- Large northern constellation
- Asian holidays
- Muffle
- Bewildered
- Purpose
- Chess opening
- Ballerina's skirt
- Overcast
- Amusement park thrill
- Canad.
- Crows' breath
- First place?
- Lively dance
- Commence
- School official

DOWN

- Breezy talk
- Per person
- Half a golf course
- Long journey
- Dark red gem
- Pithy saying
- Scads
- NY theatrical award
- Unsettled laborer
- Magis formula
- Jeopardy
- Got to one's test
- Squishy
- Hebrides
- Flap gums
- Outfits
- Call back?
- For both sexes
- Matterhorn
- Groups within groups
- Golf gadgets
- 4 of dates
- Taj Mahal city
- Blaze a trail
- Noun-forming suffix
- School on the Thames
- Chill
- Swelling
- Greek "I"
- Assimilate mentally
- Essence of roses
- Greenland town
- Italian seven
- Do as well as
- Fall bloomer
- Marine shockers
- Send out
- Stellar blast
- Sit-com equine
- Terry
- Brainstorm
- Neighbor of Ark

Peanuts

I'VE BEEN THINKING OF TAKING A SPECIAL COURSE IN FRENCH...

MAYBE EVEN A LITTLE LATIN AND SOME SPANISH... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

"D-MINUS" SPOKEN HERE...

Andy Capp

FORGET IT! IT WAS ONLY A GAME OF CARDS - WE'VE STILL GOT TO PLAY 'EM AT POOL!

READY WHEN YOU ARE, FOLKS...

IF HE WAS TO SAY ALL HE THINKS ABOUT ME AS A PARTNER, HE'D HAVE NOTHING LEFT TO SAY ABOUT ME AS A POOL PARTNER!

Mutt'n' Jeff

I CAN SEE MY REFLECTION IN UNCLE COTTS' BALD HEAD!

IF YOU WERE A YOUNG MAN, YOU'D BE A SHINING STAR IN MY EYE!

CH DEAR...

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"Today my boss offered me my own private office. Well actually, it's the box our new copier came in."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EXIDO

FYNAC

REPHOG

EETELY

Answer: A " " " " (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ELEGY OOLY UNLOCK THWART
Answer: Easy to do when you crochet — GET HOOKED

World Business

Daily

A review of news

Muasher pro

ministries dealing

JORDAN IS now qualified to be a level of advanced countries as the economy is growing with the day-to-day growth. Today's report shows that Jordan is now a developed country. The report also says that the Jordanian economy is now a developed country. The report also says that the Jordanian economy is now a developed country.

REUTERS

The Business

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | C |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| US Dollar | 1.5218 | 3.9998 | 1.6461 | 1.0000 |
| DE Mark | 0.5490 | 1.0000 | 0.6366 | 1.0000 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6680 | 0.5338 | 1.0000 | 1.0000 |
| CH Franc | 0.6625 | 1.7062 | 2.2036 | 1.0000 |
| JP Yen | 0.0077 | 1.4064 | 0.4425 | 1.0000 |
| CA Dollar | 0.6986 | 1.3049 | 0.4221 | 1.0000 |
| IL Lira | 0.0006 | 0.0114 | 0.3123 | 1.0000 |
| NL Guilder | 0.4572 | 85.73 | 2.2018 | 1.0000 |
| FR Franc | 0.1635 | 0.2980 | 0.2065 | 1.0000 |

Money Exchange

| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BA |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| US Dollar | 1.4104 | 0.7090 | 2.7364 | 2.2500 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4104 | 1.0000 | 2.2500 | 2.2500 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.1890 | 1.0000 | 2.2500 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.85 | 1.8807 | 2.2500 | 2.2500 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.2747 | 0.1947 | 2.2500 | 2.2500 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2733 | 2.2500 | 2.2500 | 2.2500 |
| Sri Lanka Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1930 | 1.2517 | 2.2500 |
| Libanese L1000 | 0.55 | 0.4446 | 2.4445 | 2.2500 |
| Egyptian | 0.2928 | 0.2078 | 1.0982 | 2.2500 |

Energy

| Oil | Last | Review |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Brent | 12.27 | 12.92 |
| N. Texas | 15.51 | 15.57 |
| Europe | 12.27 | 12.92 |
| Asia | 11.92 | 12.14 |
| US Gas | 153.00 | 0.00 |

Metals Prices

| Metal | Bid | Offer |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Gold (oz's) | 310.5 | 311 |
| Silver (oz's) | 6.38 | 6.39 |
| Platinum (oz's) | 425 | 427 |
| Al (3 Months) | 1438 | 1442 |
| Al (6 Months) | 1795 | 1800 |
| Al (9 Months) | 1143 | 1146 |
| Lead (3 Months) | 583 | 587 |
| Al (3 Months) | 5370 | 5390 |

Main Equity Index

| Source | Index | Value |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| New York | DOW JONES | 2544.3 |
| New York | S&P 500 | 1101.84 |
| London | FT-SE 100 | 5106.8 |
| Tokyo | NIKKEI 225 | 16217.98 |
| Frankfurt | DAX 40 | 2894.48 |
| | DAX | 5317.25 |

Commodity

| Commodity | Last | Delivery |
|----------------|--------|----------|
| Coffee (cents) | 147.83 | Spot |
| Cocoa (cents) | 1824 | Spot |
| Wheat (cents) | 255.6 | Spot |
| Wheat (cents) | 0 | Spot |
| Wheat (cents) | 22.03 | Spot |
| Wheat (cents) | 148 | Spot |
| Wheat (cents) | 0 | Spot |
| Wheat (cents) | 400 | Spot |

JORDAN M

DAJA

STUDIO 1

Professional 1 hour

Develop your

at our shop

JUMBO

30% large

Free

20 x 30 cm

Shmelsani - Op

Grindlays Br

Phone: 5804

Sweetish Tel: 5

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Muasher proposes link between ministries dealing in economic affairs

**** "JORDAN IS now qualified to move to the level of advanced countries as the opportunity available today will not be staying forever. Today's opportunities should be seized to boost Jordan at all levels, before it's too late," says a prominent businessman and an economist.**

In a recent lecture Anis Muasher said the Kingdom has been able to carry out basic requirements and infrastructure over the past decades to qualify the country to build a sound economy.

But despite such progress, Mr. Muasher said, economic growth has not met the ambitions, and per capita income has remained below the hoped for level. He went on to say that the employment rate has also remained low, with the social equilibrium between various classes below the satisfactory level. "The middle class has shrunk and, up to a certain point, the more fortunate class has become more affluent while the poor class has become larger," the lecturer stressed.

Noting that Jordan has continued to depend on borrowing and on foreign aid in the absence of a clear strategy that would carry it to self-reliance, Mr. Muasher indicated that such economic weakness has weakened the state's political stand. He

explained that in this regard, the state has to depend on "others to cover the continued deficit in the balance of payments and the chronic deficit in the government's income needed to cover general expenditure and debt servicing."

As a result of the financial pressure faced by the state treasury, the lecturer saw the task of the Ministry of Finance becoming more of collecting funds than of caring for the national economy. He said that the achievements of the ministries of finance, industry and trade, planning and tourism have all been limited within a narrow concept and were not necessarily linked in the comprehensive national economic cycle.

"As such, the prime minister became the only watchman for the general national economy by being the president of the Higher Economic Council," Mr. Muasher said noting the premier would not have enough time to carry the heavy burden of this task. "It could be beneficial to appoint a deputy prime minister for economic affairs or to reconsider the structure and responsibilities of concerned ministries by linking them in the comprehensive national economic cycle (Al Dastour).

Lebanese manufacturers seeking deals in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A delegation of Lebanese manufacturers held talks with Iraqi Industry Minister Adnan Abdul Majid here Monday on boosting trade between the two countries, the official INA news agency said.

The delegation, led by Jacques Sarraf, president of the manufacturers' association, told Mr. Majid they wanted to carry out joint projects with Iraqi manufacturers and contract to sell Lebanese goods to Iraq, the agency said.

On Sunday, the Lebanese manufacturers met with Iraqi

Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh to discuss Iraq's requirements under the "oil-for-food" accord with the United Nations.

The agreement allows Iraq, which has been under an embargo since it invaded neighbouring Kuwait in 1990, to sell limited quantities of oil in order to buy necessities.

Sarraf also visited Baghdad last year at the start of normalisation of relations between Iraq and Syria, which is the main power in Lebanon.

Study shows executive pay growing faster than workers

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Corporate chieftains at the largest U.S. companies are paid 209 times the average factory worker, according to a study released by the largest U.S. labour federation.

The AFL-CIO's Executive PayWatch survey said compensation for top executives was just 44 times the average worker's pay in 1995.

"CEOs get multimillion-dollar sweetheats deals while working families suffer downsizing and falling wages," said Richard Trumka, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

The AFL-CIO report built a database of executive pay figures from the Standard and Poor's list of the top 500 corporations. The AFL-CIO report said the

average executive pay increase in 1997 was 38 per cent, compared with three to four per cent for most workers.

A separate report issued by the Institute for Policy Studies linked many high-paid executive packages to companies that laid off large numbers of workers.

It said American Express Chief Executive Officer Harvey Golub earned 229 per cent more last year at the same time the company announced layoffs of 3,300 workers.

"For ordinary Americans, there is no greater symbol of betrayal by corporate America than CEOs cashing in as they lay off workers," said Chuck Collins, co-director of United for a Fair Economy, a labor advocacy organization.



Minister Khalaf and Ambassador Battiscombe sign the memorandum of understanding Monday (Petra photo)

U.K. provides 1.5m pound grant to support Jordan's educational reform

AMMAN (J.T.) — Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and British Ambassador Christopher Battiscombe Monday signed a memorandum of understanding under which the U.K. provides a grant to Jordan of 1.5 million pounds over a period of three years for a Capacity Building Project for the Ministry of Education.

The project is funded by the U.K.'s Department for International Development. Its aim is to support the Ministry of Education's efforts

towards raising the quality of management and teaching at the central, governorate and school levels.

The support is focused on providing training and consultancy advice with the aim of improving management skills at both the ministry and governorate levels as well as enhancing the role of the school as the "focus for educational development."

The U.K. government's Department for International Development has been providing, since 1989, technical assistance to the

Ministry of Education in support of the Educational Reform Programme launched by HRH Crown Prince Hassan in 1988.

U.K.-Jordan cooperation includes projects supporting the Ministry of Education's textbook production capacity; in-service teacher training programmes and a project to strengthen reform of exams and assessment systems.

Housing Bank to lay off staff

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Bank General Manager Abdul Qader Dweik said on Monday that there will be no group dismissals under the bank's restructuring process.

However, Mr. Dweik said that about 100 employees are expected to be laid off by the end of next year.

"The bank has drawn up a plan to dismiss about one hundred employees by the end of next year and that the bank's management will stop any new appointments," he stressed.

Mr. Dweik said the bank will rely heavily on automating its branches in the coming stage.

Saudi-Egyptian plastics factory to be set up in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Saudi and Egyptian investors have agreed to set up a 220-million-pound (\$65 million) factory to produce plastics, the economic daily Al Alam Al Yom has reported.

The new factory will be set up in the October 6th industrial zone, southwest of Cairo, with production set to begin within three years, Mustafa Al Ber'i, head of the Egyptian-Saudi Business Association, told the newspaper.

Mr. Ber'i did not identify the Saudi and Egyptian partners but said each side would contribute 50 per cent of the total investment.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
| US Dollar | - | 1.8215 | 0.9395 | 1.5095 | 129.40 | 1.4314 | 1799.00 | 2.0524 | 6.1175 |
| DE Mark | 0.5490 | - | 0.3289 | 0.8285 | 71.04 | 0.7886 | 987.11 | 1.1286 | 3.3571 |
| GB Sterling | 1.0880 | 3.0395 | - | 2.5178 | 216.02 | 2.3876 | 3000.73 | 3.4234 | 10.2040 |
| CH Franc | 0.6625 | 120.62 | 0.2968 | - | 85.75 | 0.9476 | 119.00 | 135.88 | 4.0800 |
| JP Yen | 0.0077 | 1.4066 | 0.4628 | 1.1666 | - | 1.1053 | 13.85 | 158.49 | 47.181 |
| CA Dollar | 0.6888 | 1.3049 | 0.4231 | 1.0794 | 1.11 | - | 1287.82 | 1.4708 | 4.3729 |
| IT Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0114 | 0.3328 | 0.8838 | 1392.37 | 0.7948 | - | 11.40 | 3.3926 |
| NL Guilder | 0.4872 | 88.73 | 0.2919 | 73.54 | 63.01 | 0.8971 | 876.11 | - | 2.8766 |
| FR Franc | 0.1635 | 0.2880 | 0.0881 | 24.6973 | 21.16 | 0.2242 | 33.58 | 33.5800 | - |

| Middle Eastern Currencies | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAH | QAT | KUW | AED | LBP | EGP |
| US Dollar | - | 0.7090 | 3.7504 | 0.3770 | 3.6408 | 0.3065 | 3.6728 | 1528.00 | 3.4160 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4104 | - | 5.2897 | 0.5317 | 5.1351 | 0.4309 | 5.1803 | 2165.15 | 4.8166 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.1890 | - | 0.1006 | 0.097 | 0.0815 | 0.08 | 407.42 | 9.1018 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.65 | 1.8807 | 9.3483 | - | 9.66 | 8.8104 | 9.24 | 4063.16 | 9.0588 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1947 | 1.0301 | 1.0301 | - | 0.0833 | 1.01 | 418.69 | 0.9380 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2733 | 2.3208 | 12.2763 | 1.2340 | 1.132 | - | 12.02 | 5001.64 | 0.9380 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1930 | 1.0211 | 0.1026 | 0.0913 | 0.0832 | - | 416.03 | 0.9288 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.65 | 0.4640 | 2.4645 | 0.2467 | 2.3627 | 0.1999 | 2.4037 | - | 2.2348 |
| Egyptian | 0.2528 | 0.2076 | 1.0882 | 0.1104 | 1.0661 | 0.0885 | 1.0755 | 447.44 | - |

| Mid-East Currencies | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | | | | |
| SA Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.4858 | 0.16985 | 0.40275 | 34.5292 | | | | |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.49608 | 0.16323 | 0.41127 | 36.2697 | | | | |
| KW Dinar | 3.2733 | 5.96303 | 1.96232 | 4.94315 | 423.908 | | | | |
| BH Dinar | 0.3770 | 4.83225 | 1.59033 | 4.00641 | 343.625 | | | | |
| CY Pound | 1.8893 | 3.4049 | 1.1203 | 2.8217 | 241.887 | | | | |

| Libor Fixing | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Period | -1- | -3- | -6- | -1- | | | | | |
| Cncy | Month | Months | Months | Year | | | | | |
| USD | 5.8797 | 5.7266 | 5.7658 | 5.8518 | | | | | |
| GBP | 7.4635 | 7.5417 | 7.6313 | 7.6208 | | | | | |
| JPY | 0.8979 | 0.7813 | 0.8921 | 0.8333 | | | | | |
| DEM | 3.6187 | 3.7438 | 3.8688 | 4.0437 | | | | | |
| FRF | 3.5313 | 1.6841 | 1.7813 | 1.9809 | | | | | |
| CHF | 1.6000 | 3.6289 | 3.7248 | 3.9375 | | | | | |
| ITL | 5.6420 | 5.2860 | 4.9900 | - | | | | | |

| Main Equity Indices | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|
| Bourse | Index | Value | Chng | % Chng | High | Low | Pr Ch | | |
| New York | DOW JONES | 6944.3 | -60.98 | -0.88 | 9004.58 | 8934.58 | 8994.86 | | |
| New York | S&P 500 | 1101.84 | -8.83 | -0.8 | 1110.78 | 1100.7 | 1110.87 | | |
| London | FT SE 100 | 5106.5 | 50.3 | 0.93 | 5105.5 | 5038.6 | 5066.2 | | |
| Tokyo | NIKKEI 225 | 16317.88 | -163.54 | -0.99 | 16400.9 | 16277.1 | 16481.1 | | |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 3894.48 | 20.61 | 0.53 | 3897.72 | 3842.41 | 3873.87 | | |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 5317.22 | 47.75 | 0.91 | 5320.48 | 5285.14 | 5289.46 | | |

| JOD Cross Rates | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Currency | Buy | Sell | | | | | | | |
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 | | | | | | | |
| GB Sterling | 1.1814 | 1.1873 | | | | | | | |
| DE Mark | 0.3876 | 0.3898 | | | | | | | |
| CH Franc | 0.4675 | 0.4686 | | | | | | | |
| FR Franc | 0.1167 | 0.1163 | | | | | | | |
| JP Yen | 0.5464 | 0.5451 | | | | | | | |
| NL Guilder | 0.3443 | 0.344 | | | | | | | |
| IT Lira | 0.3923 | 0.3943 | | | | | | | |

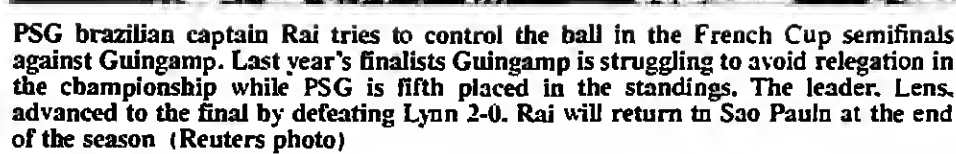
Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

| AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARJAH | | | | | | | | | | |
| TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 13/04/1998 | | | | | | | | | | |
| PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | PAST 12 MONTHS LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF SHARES | NO. OF SHARES TRADED | VALUE TRADED JO | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |
| 350,000 | 251,000 | AKAB BANK | 14.1 | 1.16 | 8 | 260 | 89320 | 347.00 | 344.00 | 3.00- |
| 2,340 | 1,660 | JOR. NATIONAL BK. | 8 | 0.00 | 1 | 150 | 263 | 1.75 | 1.75 | - |
| 1,540 | 1,210 | BANK OF JORDAN | 4.1 | 0.00 | 4 | 1200 | 1581 | 1.35 | 1.30 | 0.05- |
| 2,680 | 1,610 | INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK. | 9.4 | 7.75 | 25 | 7062 | 12075 | 1.80 | 1.82 | 0.02+ |
| 2,500 | 4,640 | THE HOUSING BK. | 17.0 | 2.70 | 5 | 3600 | 19307 | 5.42 | 5.35 | 0.07- |
| 4,140 | 1,410 | JOR. KUWAIT BANK | 8 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 453 | 1.82 | 1.81 | 0.01- |
| 920 | 50 | JOR. GULF BANK | 4.0 | 10.29 | 12 | 24850 | 16698 | 67 | 68 | 0.01+ |
| 4,020 | 1,840 | JOR. ISLAMIC BANK | 15.2 | 0.00 | 11 | 1752 | 1224 | 1.85 | 1.80 | 0.05- |
| 1,440 | 1,030 | UNION BK. SAV. INV. | P | 0.00 | 1 | 100 | 107 | 1.02 | 1.07 | 0.05+ |
| 3,300 | 1,870 | JOR. INV. FTV. BANK | 13.6 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 1800 | 1.87 | 1.80 | 0.07- |
| 1,400 | 1,000 | BETHL-HAL (BETHYAL) | 5 | 17.44 | 3 | 850 | 731 | 0.86 | 0.86 | 0.02- |
| BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 239.58 %CHG: -0.86 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,400 | 1,590 | JOR. FRENCH INSUR. | 6.0 | 11.74 | 2 | 300 | 639 | 2.14 | 2.13 | 0.01- |
| INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 127.66 %CHG: -0.05 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2,140 | 1,550 | JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 10.7 | 4.50 | 59 | 31350 | 68447 | 2.11 | 2.22 | 0.11+ |
| 4,010 | 1,320 | IRBID ELECTRICITY | 14.2 | 4.15 | 2 | 500 | 1150 | 2.19 | 2.30 | 0.11+ |
| 5,900 | 2,450 | HIMK MINERALS | 51.4 | 0.00 | 1 | 1050 | 4935 | 4.50 | 4.70 | 0.20+ |
| 1,550 | 560 | RATL. PORTFOLIO | 43.1 | 0.00 | 11 | 4200 | 4556 | 1.11 | 1.08 | 0.03- |
| 1,390 | 710 | UNION INTL. TRAD. | 9 | 0.00 | 6 | 2100 | 759 | 36 | 36 | 0.02- |
| 4,500 | 6,700 | ALRAI | 9.3 | 6.56 | 2 | 250 | 2288 | 9.30 | 9.15 | 0.15- |
| 4,600 | 2,800 | ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC. | 10.4 | 1.90 | 2 | 550 | 2310 | 4.15 | 4.20 | 0.05- |
| 1,830 | 1,520 | UNIFIED CO. | 6.7 | 7.13 | 12 | 2450 | 3656 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 0.00 |
| 810 | 600 | ORION LAND DEV. | 9 | 0.00 | 4 | 1200 | 799 | 0.65 | 0.67 | 0.02+ |
| SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 119.79 %CHG: +0.91 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4,450 | 2,690 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 19.5 | 3.81 | 17 | 4218 | 12040 | 2.82 | 2.89 | 0.07+ |
| 11,160 | 9,200 | JOR. PETROL. REFINARY | 10.5 | 8.18 | 6 | 904 | 9826 | 10.90 | 10.87 | 0.03- |
| 1,390 | 1,040 | WOLLEN INDUSTRIES | 12.6 | 6.90 | 13 | 4850 | 6917 | 1.39 | 1.45 | 0.06+ |
| 5,700 | 3,440 | ARAB PHARM. MANF. | 14.5 | 3.80 | 34 | 8573 | 45077 | 5.30 | 5.27 | 0.03- |
| 1,530 | 1,020 | JOR. PIPES MANFCT. | 13.1 | 7.46 | 3 | 750 | 1005 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 0.00 |
| 1,420 | 770 | RATLA INDUSTRIES | 9 | 0.00 | 2 | 1950 | 1522 | 0.82 | 0.78 | 0.04- |
| 6,350 | 4,000 | DAR ALMAVA DEV. INV. | 7.0 | 0.00 | 4 | 369 | 2044 | 5.96 | 5.02 | 0.94- |
| 1,110 | 670 | ARAB PAPER CON. TRD. | 21.4 | 0.00 | 2 | 1250 | 875 | 67 | 70 | 0.03+ |
| 1,810 | 370 | INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM. | 9 | 0.00 | 12 | 11750 | 4700 | 40 | 40 | - |
| 500 | 690 | JOR. WOODCRAFT INDUS. | 11.0 | 0.00 | 5 | 1100 | 55 | 1.00 | 1.00 | - |
| 2,240 | 1,380 | UNIV. CHEM. INDUS. | 14.5 | 5.61 | 1 | 250 | 355 | 1.41 | 1.42 | 0.01+ |
| 3,000 | 920 | NATL. CABLE WIRE. NPAC | 27.4 | 0.00 | 10 | 2346 | 2557 | 1.16 | 1.14 | 0.02- |
| 530 | 790 | JOR. SULPHUR CHEM. | 17.0 | 0.00 | 3 | 1200 | 570 | 58 | 57 | 0.01- |
| 5,140 | 810 | UNIV. MOON. INDUS. | 14.7 | 6.52 | 8 | 3700 | 3406 | 93 | 92 | 0.01- |
| 1,120 | 690 | JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES | 9.1 | 14.71 | 16 | 6100 | 1418 | 69 | 68 | 0.01- |
| 1,620 | 1,350 | NATL. CHOCOLATE CO. | 10.3 | 6.80 | 6 | 1083 | 1590 | 1.48 | 1.47 | 0.01- |
| 810 | 610 | JOR. NEW CEMENT CO. | 11 | 31 | 3 | 1200 | 4684 | 0.02 | 1.02 | - |
| 1,750 | 1,080 | INTL. TOBACCO | 6.5 | 0.00 | 2 | 410 | 484 | 1.19 | 1.18 | 0.01- |
| 1,720 | 980 | UNION CH. & VEG. | 49.1 | 0.00 | 20 | 23550 | 25190 | 1.05 | 1.08 | 0.03+ |
| 660 | 660 | JORDAN STEEL | 9 | 0.00 | 9 | 3630 | 3630 | 5.84 | 6.83 | 0.01- |
| 1,790 | 570 | MO. EAST COMPLEX | 18.8 | 15.87 | 31 | 63950 | 39453 | 63 | 63 | - |
| 1,100 | 720 | ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT. | 54.9 | 0.00 | 2 | 651 | 651 | 1.00 | 1.00 | - |
| INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 130.59 %CHG: +0.24 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 169.92 %CHG: -0.39 | | | | | | | | | | |
| GRAND TOTAL 408 293710 464239 | | | | | | | | | | |
| PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 13/04/1998 | | | | | | | | | | |
| N 1,050 | 410 | EXPORT & FIN. BDK. 75% | 16.8 | 0.00 | 5 | 1150 | 764 | 91 | 91 | - |
| N 1,220 | 1,050 | ISLAMIC INSURANCE CO | 0 | 0.00 | 7 | 12250 | 14715 | 1.22 | 1.20 | 0.02- |
| N 530 | 340 | JOR. TRADE FAC. | 0 | 0.06 | 6 | 33790 | 13903 | 40 | 41 | 0.01- |
| N 660 | 800 | ORION INV. 50% | 0.00 | 0.00 | 29 | 71300 | 17996 | 75 | 76 | 0.01+ |
| N 620 | 360 | ARAB FIN. INVEST. | 0 | 0.00 | 33 | 46500 | 19105 | 40 | 41 | - |
| N 3100 | 720 | AL-SHARQ INV. CO. | 7 | 0.00 | 1 | 1000 | 1000 | 1.00 | 1.00 | - |
| N 640 | 310 | ARAB FOOD & FIB. | 0 | 0.00 | 8 | 2900 | 2162 | 45 | 46 | 0.01+ |
| N 740 | 340 | ARAB INTL. TRD. | 43.8 | 0.00 | 12 | 141000 | 55814 | 100 | 100 | 0.02- |
| N 750 | 360 | NATL. MULT. ENG. MANICO | 0 | 0.00 | 8 | 12800 | 4864 | 38 | 38 | - |
| N 690 | 580 | MIDEAST PHARM. 90% | E | 0.00 | 3 | 500 | 265 | 63 | 63 | - |
| N 1440 | 860 | ORION TOBACCO 75% | E | 0.00 | 10 | 1500 | 2080 | 1.64 | 1.63 | 0.01- |
| N 730 | 550 | RAZI PHARM. | E | 0.00 | 3 | 6315 | 4357 | 69 | 69 | - |
| N 460 | 240 | INDUS. ENG. | E | 0.00 | 1 | 2000 | 560 | 27 | 28 | 0.01+ |
| N 490 | 130 | ORION CERAMIC | 13.1 | 0.00 | 3 | 1450 | 1708 | 1.00 | 1.00 | - |
| N 590 | 550 | ADVANCED PHARMA. IND. | 9 | 0.00 | 6 | 4160 | 2537 | 61 | 61 | - |
| N 740 | 430 | NATL. POULTRY | P | 0.00 | 9 | 6950 | 3217 | 47 | 46 | 0.01- |
| N 1000 | 140 | NAT. ALUMINIUM. 75% | 45.5 | 0.00 | 8 | 2500 | 2582 | 60 | 59 | 0.01- |
| N 1,310 | 1,000 | NUTRITION | P | 0.00 | 7 | 8000 | 8320 | 1.04 | 1.04 | - |
| N 1,000 | 750 | KIBAL PRINT CO. 75% | 12.6 | 9.13 | 1 | 500 | 290 | 0.83 | 0.83 | - |
| GRAND TOTAL 178 363755 155639 | | | | | | | | | | |

Ajax take 27th title

Laspalles, saw a tremendous effort come back off the bar on 24 minutes with PSG keeper Vincent Fernandez beaten.

Marco Simone similarly struck the woodwork for PSG just after the half hour.



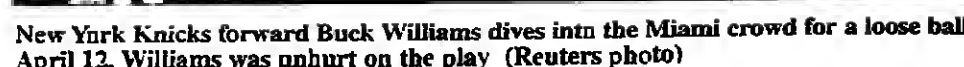
Further goals seemed inevitable, and still more so when the referee ruled that PSG playmaker Jimmy Almerito had been nudged down in the box five minutes before the break.

Despite angry Guingamp protests, PSG's Brazilian skipper Lú stepped up to send his spottick goalwards only for Thomas to make a superb save diving to his left.

The second half brought few chances save for three speculative efforts from Simone whilst Moreira and Tassafout went close for a Guingamp side rapidly running out of ideas.

ingers

AS IF that were not enough, Ajax can claim a further record of goals scored and conceded over the last four league games. They have to score another 12 for a new record of 105 and have so far conceded just 14, six less than the all-time Dutch mark.



Hersey Hawkins scored 20. The Nets went 5-for-5 shots.

CINEMA TEL. 46.41.54 CINEMA



| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------------|----|-----------------|--------|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| NBA | | | | Cincinnati | 10 | Colorado | 4 | Karabukspor | 0 | Gaziantepspor | 1 |
| Charlotte | 88 | Detroit | 86 | San Diego | 4 | Arizona | 2 | Bursaspor | 0 | Sekerspor | 6 |
| Miami | 82 | New York | 81 | San Francisco | 2 | St Louis | 1 | Kayserispor | 5 | Trabzonspor | 6 |
| Seattle | 103 | Houston | 95 | Los Angeles | 7 | Houston | 6 (10 | Antalyaspor | 2 | Vanspor | 0 |
| Atlanta | 91 | Washington | 81 | Innings) | | | | Galatasaray | 6 | Altay | 1 |
| New Jersey | 116 | Toronto | 109 | | | | | | | | |
| Indiana | 93 | Boston | 87 | NHL | | | | French Cup | | | |
| Phoenix | 129 | Vancouver | 106 | New Jersey | 5 | Florida | 5 (OT) | P. S. Germain | 1 | Guingamp | 0 |
| American League | | | | Phoenix | 2 | Chicago | 1 | PSG play Lens in May 2 | | final at Stade de France | |
| | | | | Dallas | 4 | St Louis | 3 | | | | |
| Boston | 8 | Seattle | 7 | Spanish League | | | | Greek Championship | | | |
| Anaheim | 12 | Cleveland | 1 | SD Compostela | 1 | Real Sociedad | 3 | Olympiakos | 4 | Pyrgos | 2 |
| Baltimore | 6 | Detroit | 3 | Salamanca | 6 | Valencia | 0 | Apollon | 4 | PAOK | 4 |
| Ny Yankees | 7 | Oakland | 5 | Zaragoza | 2 | Mallorca | 3 | Heraklis | 1 | Ionikos | 1 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | Chi White Sox | 1 | Oviedo | 0 | R. Santander | 1 | Veria | 3 | Ofi | 0 |
| Minnesota | 7 | Kansas City | 2 | Athletic Bilbao | 2 | Valladolid | 0 | Panahaiki | 2 | Xanthi | 1 |
| Texas | 3 | Toronto | 1 | E. Barcelona | 2 | Tenerife | 0 | Proodeftiki | 1 | Panionios | 1 |
| National League | | | | | | | | Athinaikos | 0 | Kalamata | 0 |
| | | | | German championship | | | | Scottish Premier Division | | | |
| Montreal | 4 | Chicago Cubs | 1 | B. Moncheng. | 0 | Duisburg | 3 | Rangers | 2 | Celtic | 0 |
| Atlanta | 3 | Philadelphia | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh | 7 | Florida | 3 | Turkish League | | | | Estoril Open | | | |
| Ny Mets | 6 | Milwaukee | 4 | Ankaragucu | 2 | Gencelbirtiligi | 0 | Alberto Berasategui (Spa x3) bt Thomas Muster (Aut x3) | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---------------|-----|---------------------|----|-----------------|--------|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| NBA | | | | Cincinnati | 10 | Colorado | 4 | Karabukspor | 0 | Gaziantepspor | 1 |
| Charlotte | 88 | Detroit | 86 | San Diego | 4 | Arizona | 2 | Bursaspor | 0 | Sekerspor | 6 |
| Miami | 82 | New York | 81 | San Francisco | 2 | St Louis | 1 | Kayserispor | 5 | Trabzonspor | 6 |
| Seattle | 103 | Houston | 95 | Los Angeles | 7 | Houston | 6 (10 | Antalyaspor | 2 | Vanspor | 0 |
| Atlanta | 91 | Washington | 81 | Innings) | | | | Galatasaray | 6 | Altay | 1 |
| New Jersey | 116 | Toronto | 109 | | | | | | | | |
| Indiana | 93 | Boston | 87 | NHL | | | | French Cup | | | |
| Phoenix | 129 | Vancouver | 106 | New Jersey | 5 | Florida | 5 (OT) | P. S. Germain | 1 | Guingamp | 0 |
| American League | | | | Phoenix | 2 | Chicago | 1 | PSG play Lens in May 2 | | final at Stade de France | |
| | | | | Dallas | 4 | St Louis | 3 | | | | |
| Boston | 8 | Seattle | 7 | Spanish League | | | | Greek Championship | | | |
| Anaheim | 12 | Cleveland | 1 | SD Compostela | 1 | Real Sociedad | 3 | Olympiakos | 4 | Pyrgos | 2 |
| Baltimore | 6 | Detroit | 3 | Salamanca | 6 | Valencia | 0 | Apollon | 4 | PAOK | 4 |
| Ny Yankees | 7 | Oakland | 5 | Zaragoza | 2 | Mallorca | 3 | Heraklis | 1 | Ionikos | 1 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | Chi White Sox | 1 | Oviedo | 0 | R. Santander | 1 | Veria | 3 | Ofi | 0 |
| Minnesota | 7 | Kansas City | 2 | Athletic Bilbao | 2 | Valladolid | 0 | Panahaiki | 2 | Xanthi | 1 |
| Texas | 3 | Toronto | 1 | E. Barcelona | 2 | Tenerife | 0 | Proodeftiki | 1 | Panionios | 1 |
| National League | | | | | | | | Athinaikos | 0 | Kalamata | 0 |
| | | | | German championship | | | | Scottish Premier Division | | | |
| Montreal | 4 | Chicago Cubs | 1 | B. Moncheng. | 0 | Duisburg | 3 | Rangers | 2 | Celtic | 0 |
| Atlanta | 3 | Philadelphia | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Pittsburgh | 7 | Florida | 3 | Turkish League | | | | Estoril Open | | | |
| Ny Mets | 6 | Milwaukee | 4 | Ankaragucu | 2 | Gencelbirtiligi | 0 | Alberto Berasategui (Spa x3) bt Thomas Muster (Aut x3) | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| TODAY AT | <small>CINEMA TEL: 594114</small> PHILADELPHIA '1' <i>Yusra & Ilham Shahin ... in</i> DANTELLA <small>(ARABIC)</small> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | <small>CINEMA TEL: 594114</small> PHILADELPHIA '2' <i>Morgan Freeman & Ashley Judd ... in</i> KISS THE GIRLS Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | <small>CINEMA TEL: 594138</small> PLAZA <i>The biggest cinema production</i> TITANIC Shows: 12:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | <small>CINEMA TEL: 5677430</small> CONCORD <small>ISMAILIA RAYEH GAI</small> - KAMANANA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 <small>RISALA ILA AL WALI</small> <i>Adel Imam & Yusra ... in</i> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 | <small>CINEMA TEL: 5945793</small> GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN GRAND OPENING TITANIC Shows: 11:00, 2:00, 5:15, 8:30, 12:00 | <small>CINEMA TEL: 5934793</small> GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN GRAND OPENING TITANIC Shows: 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 <i>The film is also on at 12:00 a.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays</i> | Hisham Yanes Theatre TEL: 4625155 STARTING APRIL 6TH Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian <i>Starring Hisham Yanes, Amal Dabbas, Rania Kundi and the group</i> at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155 |
|-----------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|---|

to be third
Blake Manning against
seventh game of the

ATP — Leading ATP men's tennis ra
Mando Rios (Chile)

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| de Sampras (USA) | 370.28 |
| de Korda (Cze) | 370.03 |
| de Kock (Aus) | 342.12 |
| de Koeber (Gbr) | 325.55 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 304.44 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 301.21 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 296.67 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 292.73 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 289.08 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 285.43 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 281.78 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 278.13 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 274.48 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 270.83 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 267.18 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 263.53 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 259.88 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 256.23 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 252.58 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 248.93 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 245.28 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 241.63 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 237.98 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 234.33 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 230.68 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 227.03 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 223.38 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 219.73 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 216.08 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 212.43 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 208.78 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 205.13 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 201.48 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 197.83 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 194.18 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 190.53 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 186.88 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 183.23 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 179.58 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 175.93 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 172.28 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 168.63 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 164.98 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 161.33 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 157.68 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 154.03 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 150.38 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 146.73 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 143.08 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 139.43 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 135.78 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 132.13 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 128.48 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 124.83 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 121.18 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 117.53 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 113.88 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 110.23 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 106.58 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 102.93 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 99.28 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 95.63 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 91.98 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 88.33 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 84.68 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 81.03 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 77.38 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 73.73 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 70.08 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 66.43 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 62.78 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 59.13 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 55.48 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 51.83 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 48.18 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 44.53 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 40.88 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 37.23 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 33.58 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 29.93 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 26.28 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 22.63 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 18.98 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 15.33 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 11.68 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 8.03 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 4.38 |
| de Kuyper (Nld) | 0.73 |

act to sort out

NIGGE (AFPI) —
and the Dutch
Football Association
over World Cup
appearances.

3rd time the charm for Pierce in Florida

AMELIA ISLAND (AFP) — Mary Pierce rallied from an error-strewn first set to defeat Conchita Martinez 6-7 (8/10), 6-0, 6-2 Sunday in the final of the \$450,000 WTA Tour event here. It was third time lucky for the fourth-seeded Frenchwoman, who was runner-up at Amelia Island for the past two years.

Even with numerous unforced errors, Pierce was able to take the sixth-seeded Martinez to a tiebreaker in the opening set. They traded breaks in the first three games as Martinez took a 2-1 lead.

The Spaniard stayed on top until the 10th game when, serving for the set, she dropped her serve with a forehand long on break point. Both had chances to take the set in the tiebreaker. Martinez had the first opportunity, at 6-5. Pierce had the next chance but missed a forehand. Martinez failed on her second set point, at 8-7, but Pierce gave her a third chance when she netted an overhead.

Then the Frenchwoman netted a service return to close the set after nearly an hour. Then Pierce took charge. She won the next eight games to take the second set 6-0 and take a 2-0 lead in the third.

She broke Martinez again in the seventh game of the



Mary Pierce

third to lead 5-2, and efficiently served out the match.

Pierce, who lost to Irina Spilrca in three sets in the 1996 final here and to

Lindsay Davenport in straight sets last year, captured her second title of the year.

Pierce won the Open Gaz de France in Paris in

February and was a quarter-finalist at the Australian Open.

Martinez won here in 1995, the last time Pierce was not a finalist.

Schumacher wins in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Michael Schumacher's Ferrari won the Argentine Grand Prix here on Sunday to grab second spot in the Formula One world championship in this third race of the year.

And his victory over 72 laps on this 4.259km (2.646 mile) Oscar-Galvez circuit, stopped the supremacy of McLaren over the first two races.

Finland's Mika Hakkinen, the world championship leader who won in Melbourne and Sao Paulo, was second but saw his championship lead extended to 12 points. Ulsterman Eddie Irvine made it double joy for Ferrari with third place. Benetton's Alexander Wurz of Austria was fourth with Jean Alesi fifth in his Sauber.

Meanwhile Scot David Coulthard, second in his McLaren in the first two races, could only make sixth spot. Schumacher, using wider Goodyear tyres which gave him a clear advantage, survived a late scare as he left the circuit and bounced over the gravel with just seven laps to go.

However the two-time world champion kept his cool for his 28th Grand Prix victory.

It was Hakkinen who had the best start. He overtook the Ferrari of Schumacher on the front row by the first corner to tuck into second place behind teammate Coulthard. Coulthard was starting in pole position for the first time in 38 races. However the supremacy of the McLarens was short-lived.

Schumacher hit back by the second lap to regain second by getting past Hakkinen, who had led the world championship by eight points after winning the first two races.

And three laps later he sneaked past Coulthard on the inside to take the lead. Coulthard was left spinning on the track and dropped to sixth.

Schumacher said afterwards on the incident: "Coulthard went a bit wide, but when I went for it he closed the door and left no room to go."

"But I did not want to lift off the pedal because I had the chance. The car was damaged after that which made it not nice to drive, but it was good enough."

"I knew I had to come out ahead after the second stop and the gap we had was enough as long as there were no problems in the



McLaren-Mercedes drivers Scotland's David Coulthard (L) and teammate Finland's Mika Hakkinen lead the pack at the start of the Argentine Grand Prix (Reuters photo)



German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher (R) and teammate Ireland's Eddie Irvine lift Ferrari's team manager Jean Todt (C) as they celebrate their victory in the Argentine Grand Prix, April 12. Finnish driver Mika Hakkinen from McLaren came in second and Irvine finished third (Reuters photo)

pits. But we got it right." Meanwhile teammate Irvine had got past the Williams of Heinz-Harald Frentzen to take third spot. Schumacher, aided by the new, wider Goodyear tyres in use by Ferrari and Williams for the first time this weekend, forged 12 seconds ahead by lap 19.

His consistently faster laps were in sharp contrast to the clear superiority of the McLarens in Melbourne and Sao Paulo. Brazilian Pedro Diniz was the first of the 22 drivers to fall by the wayside as he slid off in his Arrows on lap 13.

Ralf Schumacher added to

Jordan's early-season woes when he completed an unwanted South American double as he went the same way he did in Brazil a fortnight ago by spinning out.

Two-time world champion Schumacher made his first pit stop on lap 28 allowing Hakkinen to take over the lead. Hakkinen, who had obviously been carrying a heavy fuel load at the start, steadily built-up his lead over Schumacher to around 14 seconds at the half-way point of the race.

But as the Bridgestone tyres began to wear, making it difficult to control the car, the Finn finally stopped on

lap 42 allowing Schumacher to regain first place. Schumacher was going two seconds a laps faster than Hakkinen and in the eight laps till the 50th circuit, he effectively won the race.

He forged 19 seconds ahead, leaving enough room for a pitstop, though he could see Hakkinen in his mirror as he shot back onto the track. Then came the late scare, but Schumacher was not to be denied. The Benetton of Austria's Alexander Wurz was third with six laps remaining but he made a bad mistake and dropped down the placing.

Scots boss set to try out World Cup hopefuls

GLASGOW (AFP) — Scotland manager Craig Brown indicated Monday that he may take the opportunity to experiment in the World Cup warm-up game against Finland next week.

Brown, who names his squad on Tuesday for the match at Hibernian's Easter Road ground, promised last month before the B team match with Wales that if any player made an impact that night he would be promoted.

Celtic pair, keeper Jonathan Gould and defender Tosb McKinlay, were impressive as was

Hearts centre back Paul Ritchie.

Brown may now be tempted to call up Gould next week and give Wimbledon keeper Neil Sullivan a run-out against Norway B the previous evening at Tynecastle.

McKinlay's situation is a little bit more complex. He skipped the team to victory against the Welsh but cannot get into the Celtic starting line-up even though Stephane Mahe is injured.

His lack of match practice could count against him although Brown may

feel he deserves a place in the senior squad.

Ritchie may have to bide his time as Scotland have strength in depth at the heart of their defence.

Colin Hendry, Colin Calderwood, Matt Elliott, Christian Dailly and David Weir are all ahead of the Hearts youngster in the pecking order.

The Finland game will be Scotland's last World Cup warm-up match on home soil before France.

Following the game in Edinburgh they have matches in New York and Washington next month

against Colombia and the United States.

Brown is unlikely to tamper with his regular squad too much, although he will be praying some of his key players stay injury free.

He was without the likes of John Collins, Kevin Gallacher, Paul Lambert, Craig Burley and Gordon Durie for the match against Denmark last month.

The result was that Scotland went down 1-0 with Rangers star Brian Laudrup getting the winner.



Marcelo Rios

Sampras closely trails Rios in latest ATP rankings

PARIS (AFP) — Leading ATP men's tennis rankings issued Monday:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------|
| 1. Marcelo Rios (Chi) | 3645 |
| 2. Pete Sampras (USA) | 3600 |
| 3. Petr Korda (Cze) | 3443 |
| 4. Patrick Rafter (Aus) | 3254 |
| 5. Greg Rusedski (Gbr) | 3094 |
| 6. Yevgeny Kafelnikov (Rus) | 3027 |
| 7. Jonas Bjorkman (Swe) | 2663 |
| 8. Alex Corretja (Spa) | 2523 |
| 9. Richard Krajicek (Ned) | 2308 |
| 10. Gustavo Kuerten (Bra) | 2262 |
| 11. Karol Kucera (Svk) | 2141 |
| 12. Rikis Mantilla (Spa) | 2048 |
| 13. Michael Chang (USA) | 2009 |
| 14. Cedric Pioline (Fra) | 1860 |
| 15. Tim Henman (Gbr) | 1847 |
| 16. Alberto Berasategui (Spa) | 1820 |
| 17. Mark Philippoussis (Aus) | 1767 |
| 18. Carlos Moyes (Spa) | 1744 |
| 19. Sergi Bruguera (Spa) | 1610 |
| 20. Albert Costa (Spa) | 1575 |
| 21. Thomas Enqvist (Swe) | 1574 |
| 22. Andre Agassi (USA) | 1558 |
| 23. Goran Ivanisevic (Cro) | 1473 |
| 24. Magnus Norman (Swe) | 1472 |
| 25. Nicolas Pietrangeli (Ger) | 1449 |
| 26. Fabrice Santoro (Fra) | 1436 |
| 27. Thomas Muster (Aut) | 1407 |
| 28. Andre Medvedev (Ukr) | 1325 |
| 29. Marc Rosset (Svi) | 1297 |
| 30. Jan Siemerink (Ned) | 1261 |

Dutch act to sort out World Cup rows

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Fears of a row between players and the Dutch Royal Football Association (KNVB) over World Cup bonuses appear to be over, the players' agent Wil Langenberg said Monday.

"I'm sure the KNVB will accept our conditions," he

said. The players and coach Guus Hiddink had threatened to go to court over bonuses which the KNVB had refused to pay.

Hiddink said another conflict appeared to have been resolved after a talk with Edgar Davids who has been

out-of-favour since being sent home from the European Championships in 1996 when the Juventus midfielder refused to be a substitute.

"If he maintains his present form I'm sure he'll be in the World Cup squad," said Hiddink.

Ronaldomania reaches Moscow

MOSCOW (AFP) — More than 100 fans and 50 journalists gathered at Moscow's Sheremetyevo international airport on Monday for the arrival of the world's top player Ronaldo.

But they nearly missed him because his Inter Milan side's aircraft was forced to circle for 90 minutes because of an unexpected snowfall in the Russian capital, and the plane was almost diverted to another airport.

Ronaldo's second visit to the Russian capital — he first visited in September 1996 when Brazil drew 2-2 with Russia in a friendly — has sparked enormous interest among Russian fans for Tuesday's UEFA Cup semi-final.

Ronaldo was flanked by two police officers during the 50-metre walk from customs to the team bus, but they were unable to stop Spartak Moscow fans surging forward to get an autograph or photo.

The return leg of the UEFA Cup semi-final has generated huge interest with fans queuing at ticket offices overnight Saturday to buy tickets which were sold out by Sunday.

If Spartak overturn Inter's 2-1 advantage from the first leg, coach Oleg Romantsev — who has reached the semi-finals of all three major European cups — would become the first Russian coach to guide his team to the UEFA Cup final.

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THAI NEW YEAR HEAD BUTTING: Two men launch forward at each other in Bangkok while taking part in a traditional head butting match on Monday during celebrations for Songkran, the Thai New Year. The traditional Thai New Year is celebrated nationwide with a variety of religious ceremonies, street entertainment and traditional water fights, cooling off during the warmest time of year (AFP photo)

U.S. diplomat says U.N.-Iraq accord seems to be working

MANAMA (AFP) — U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Bill Richardson, said Sunday the Iraq-U.N. accord on arms inspections appeared to be working but would not say if Washington would reduce its military presence in the Gulf.

"The agreement seems to be working. What we are seeking is compliance with the agreement. We want unfettered and unrestricted access to presidential and other sensitive sites in Iraq for U.N. weapons inspectors," Mr. Richardson told reporters in the Bahraini capital at the end of a two-day visit.

Iraq and the United Nations signed an accord in February

allowing U.N. experts to inspect eight presidential sites but the United States continues to deploy a large military force in the Gulf.

Asked when that presence would be reduced, Mr. Richardson said: "We have to wait and watch."

Britain is preparing to withdraw its aircraft carrier from the Gulf in the next few days. On Iran, U.S. President Bill Clinton's national security advisor on Gulf affairs expressed hope that the new regime of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami would usher in positive changes.

"We are closely monitoring Iran's military capabilities and weapons of mass destruction."

We, however, believe that the changes in Iran will be positive under President Khatami," said Bruce Reidel.

Mr. Richardson left Bahrain on Sunday night for Bangladesh on the start of an Asian tour.

Earlier, he held talks with Bahraini Emir Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa and passed on an invitation from Mr. Clinton for the Emir to visit the United States in June.

After Bangladesh, Mr. Richardson is due to visit India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand during his 10-day Asian tour largely aimed at laying the groundwork for a visit by Mr. Clinton later this year.

Israel not expected to ask for Sakic extradition

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is unlikely to seek the extradition of the commander of a World War II concentration camp from Argentina, preferring that he be tried in Croatia, officials said Monday.

Argentine President Carlos Menem last week ordered police to detain Dinko Sakic and has indicated he would not oppose his extradition.

Sakic, 76, was the highest commander at Jasenovac, a concentration camp where tens of thousands of Serbs, Gypsies, and Jews were killed under Croatian dictator Ante Pavelic, a wartime ally of Nazi Germany.

In a recent television interview in Buenos Aires, Sakic acknowledged that he was a commander at the camp, but said "nothing happened in Jasenovac." He has since disappeared from his home in Argentina. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Amir Gissin said Israel so far has made no request to bring Sakic to Israel to stand trial.

An official at the ministry, speaking on condition of anonymity, added that Israel prefers Nazi war criminals to be brought to trial in the country where they committed the crimes. Croatian Justice Minister Miroslav Separcovic said he has started legal and diplomatic procedures to have Sakic returned for trial.

Iran favours military games with regional countries

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran said Monday it favoured staging joint military manoeuvres with other countries in the region in the Gulf and Oman Sea, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

"We understand certain countries are ready to take part in joint naval manoeuvres," said Colonel Abdullah Manavi-Rudrani, a spokesman for ongoing Iranian exercises in the Gulf.

"The Iranian manoeuvres show that we are taking measures to ensure the region's security with the help of other countries in the area," he added without naming the countries.

Iran favoured holding exercises with.

Iran's navy launched manoeuvres in the Gulf and Sea of Oman on Sunday.

The manoeuvres, baptised "Enehad" (Unity), were designed to "increase the combat readiness of Iran's naval forces in safeguarding the country's sea borders and testing military equipment."

Three Russian-built submarines are taking part in the manoeuvres along with two destroyers and two light vessels. Other warships are also taking part along with helicopters, reconnaissance aircraft and three F-4 jet fighters.

The operations, involving 15,000 men, include night refuelling at sea, controlling and guiding aircraft, air defence and electronic warfare.

Iran's navy chief Admiral Abbas Mohtaj said earlier that his forces were willing to carry out joint exercises with Muslim states in the Gulf, saying the name Enehad showed that the manoeuvres were "aimed towards unity of the regional countries."

Iran has sought to encourage Gulf Arab states to end the presence of U.S. and allied forces in the region and opt for regional cooperation to ensure security.

Iran law sets tough rules on press photos of women

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's parliament has passed the general outlines of a controversial law that aims to toughen the country's rules on the publication of photographs of women.

The official news agency IRNA said in a report on Sunday night that the law seeks to ban "the use of women as a tool by publications in the form of photos or in content."

It did not elaborate on the law, which needs to go through another parliament vote. It must also be approved by the Guardian Council,

which has the final say on parliamentary legislation.

The legislation has come under fire from opponents, including Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Ataollah Mohajerani, who see it as ambiguous, creating the potential for many interpretations that could restrict press freedom.

A group of conservative parliament members had demanded more rigid rules after publications used photographs of women, most of them in full Islamic dress, in an apparent effort to boost circulation.

They further pressed the issue when a court last month penalised a magazine head on charges of running "obscene pictures" of U.S. President Bill Clinton's alleged lovers.

Iran enforces a strict Islamic dress code requiring women to wear a loose garment covering their body and hair, allowing only their face and hands to be seen. Of the few photographs of foreign women that Iranian magazines print, many show them wearing hats and long dresses.

Release of all POWs expected within 12 months — Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — The exchange of POWs held since the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, the main outstanding bar to diplomatic ties between Tehran and Baghdad, should be completed within the next 12 months, a senior Iranian official said Monday.

"This problem will be settled during the Iranian year 1377 [which ends in March 1999]," General Abdullah Najafi, head of Iran's POW committee said. "In the next few days the two sides will meet at the border for preliminary talks which will be completed in Baghdad," he told the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

The Baghdad meeting would be held on April 18. Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al Sabah said Sunday: "Iran released 5,584 Iraqi POWs and Iraq released three Iranian POWs and 316 other Iranian 'detainees' in an exchange supervised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) between April 2 and 7."

The majority of those released had been held for

more than 15 years, the ICRC said.

Most registered POWs had now been freed, Mr. Najafi said. He said the two governments were expected to start negotiations soon on the question of unregistered detainees.

The POW question is the main outstanding bar to the reopening of diplomatic ties broken since the Iran-Iraq war. Tehran also demands that Baghdad cease allowing the People's Mujahadeen, the main armed Iranian opposition group, to use bases in Iraq.

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told the official Iranian news agency IRNA.

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Turkey captures former PKK commander

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish marines brought a former top commander of the separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) to Turkey Monday after capturing him in neighbouring northern Iraq, the military announced.

Semdin Sakik last month surrendered to the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), a leading Iraqi Kurdish group cooperating with Turkey, after a dispute with PKK leader

Abdullah Ocalan.

The Turkish general staff said in a statement that a marine team captured Mr. Sakik early Monday in Dohuk, a KDP-controlled town some 60 km south of the Turkish border, and brought him to Turkish territory by helicopter.

"The operation was conducted after the KDP rejected our request for Sakik's extradition," the statement said. KDP officials in Ankara

were not immediately available for comment, and it was not clear if the operation would damage relations between Ankara and the Iraqi Kurd group.

Mr. Sakik used to be the commander of PKK rebels in "northern Kurdistan," referring to southeastern Turkey in the group's terminology.

But he quit the PKK and surrendered to the KDP on March 16.

Algeria: No Islamic rule on ending rape pregnancy

PARIS (R) — Algeria's highest religious authority has issued no Islamic edict allowing women raped by "terrorists" to end their pregnancy, Algerian newspapers said on Monday.

"There is no fatwa (edict) regarding women raped by terrorists," said Le Matin and La Tribune newspapers, quoting the supreme Islamic Council, the religious body advising the government on Islamic matters.

The council said it was bound by the law which specifies that the body issues rules only when asked to do so by the president.

"Until now there is no submission of the case by the president," the newspapers quoted the council as adding.

On Sunday, the Algerian daily Al Khabar said the council had issued a fatwa stating that "the interruption of the pregnancy is now authorised, except for extreme cases, for women who are victims of rapes committed by terrorists."

Hundreds of women, and girls as young as 12, have been raped during attacks on Algerian villages in which thousands of people have been killed. Others have been kidnapped by rebels and raped, and discovered after escaping that they were pregnant.

Islamists, called "terrorists" in official Algerian parlance, have been battling the government since early 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election

in which Islamists had taken a commanding lead.

A U.S. State Department 1997 report on human rights in Algeria said "there were frequent reports of young women being abducted and repeatedly raped, often for weeks at a time. The terrorists sought to justify this sexual abuse by referring to it as 'temporary marriage,' but all other observers, including Islamic scholars, uniformly condemned the practice as rape."

A 16-year-old girl, who escaped after being held captive by rebels for months, told an Algerian state-run television programme at the weekend that she had been raped by 30 of her captors in one night.

Western tourists make gradual return to Iraq's ancient sites

BABYLON (AFP) — A group of Austrian tourists wanders around the site of ancient Babylon, just 100 km south of Baghdad, admiring what remains of one of the wonders of the ancient world.

The Hanging Gardens are no more but the Austrians are able to see the throne room of Nebuchadnezzar and the processional route used by the Babylonian kings for their great religious feasts.

A plaque records that "victorious" Iraqi President Saddam Hussein carried out a partial reconstruction of the site in the early 1980s, before Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and the 1991 Gulf war devastated Iraq's tourism industry.

The group's leader, Hannes Galter, an orientalist from the University of Graz, is returning to Iraq for the first time since 1989.

He is bringing with him 23 of his compatriots for a tour of the remains of the ancient civilisations of the Middle East.

"When the crisis broke out [between Iraq and the United Nations over disarmament last November], we had plenty of cancella-

tions," he says.

"But after February [when the crisis was resolved] we actually took two additional bookings."

Mr. Galter's party is one of a growing number of specialist tour groups coming to Iraq to take advantage of a cut-price opportunity to visit some of the ancient world's most famous sites.

A 12-day tour taking in such evocative names as Babylon and Nineveh, Baghdad and Ur of the Chaldees costs just \$1,000 all in, including the 12-hour coach journey from Amman to the Iraqi capital.

Mr. Galter says his group used the services of Austrian tour firm Sindbad Reisen, who run a joint venture with one of the more successful Iraqi private tour operators, Atlas Travel and Tourism.

"The Iraqis are very welcoming and we experienced no difficulties at the border, but the terrible damage to the tourism infrastructure is clear for all to see and, with the best will in the world, you can't make up for that," he says.

district, Atlas director Safaa Al Jassani insists that business is not going too badly in the circumstances.

Already this year his firm has handled a total of 125 tourists in five groups from Austria, Italy and Switzerland and he says his firm has further bookings from Belgium and France for October. Last year his company welcomed 300 Western tourists, six of them Americans with a Canadian tour group.

The motives of Mr. Jassani's Austrian partner in the joint venture are more sentimental than commercial.

The child of an Iraqi father and an Austrian mother, Luay Sarsam says he wants to counter-act the prejudices about Iraq that have developed in the West since the invasion of Kuwait and the imposition of U.N. sanctions.

"The sanctions have demonised a whole people — that's why I want people to rediscover the glories of Iraq and to remind them that Iraq was the cradle of civilisation," he says.

He says most of his niche clientele are students and pensioners attracted by the

low prices Iraq has to offer following the collapse of the exchange rate of its currency, the dinar, in the wake of U.N. sanctions.

A meal in the most expensive restaurant in Baghdad

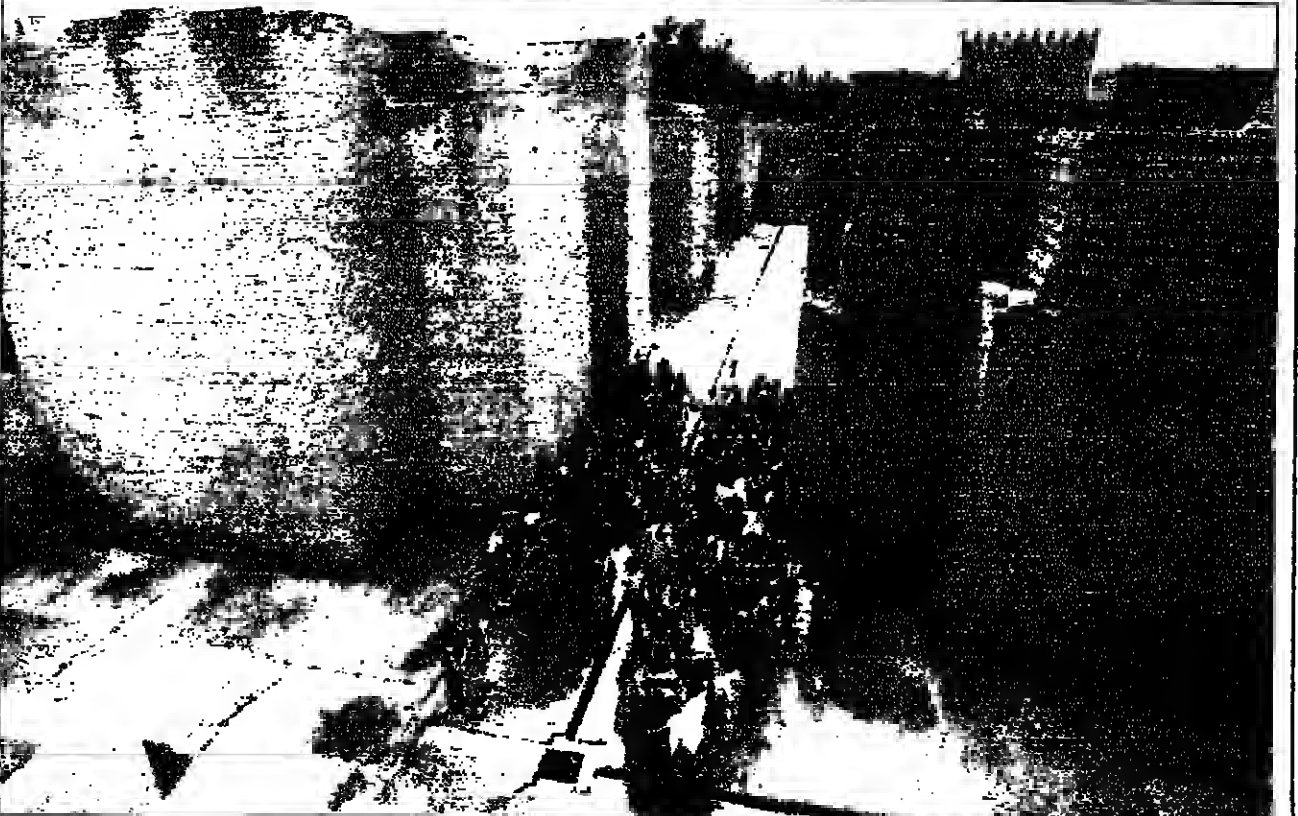
costs around 13,000 dinars, as much as three months' salary for an Iraqi civil servant but barely \$10 at the current exchange rate.

Westerners are obliged to pay their hotel bills in dol-

lars at the old official exchange rate, but a night at the capital's most luxurious hotel, the Al Rasheed, still only costs around \$50 a night.

For Mr. Sarsam the com-

mercial return on his investment will come in the future. It is important get in now, because once sanctions are lifted the tourism sector will "explode," he says.



Schoolchildren visit the site of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world on Saturday (AFP photo)

Major is worth more to advertisers than Campbell or Moss

LONDON (AFP) — Former British Prime Minister John Major is worth more to advertisers than supermodels Naomi Campbell or Kate Moss.

According to the Daily Telegraph here, he can command up to \$165,000 for an advertising endorsement, higher than the two British models. The paper said Major had been offered this sum by the advertising agency Saatchi to endorse

The Independent newspaper in a 30-second television spot. He eventually turned the offer down. Major has become a millionaire since leaving Downing Street last May after his Conservative Party's humiliating election defeat, the paper said.

Rhys-Jones astonishes Fergie

LONDON (AFP) — Sophie Rhys-Jones, the girlfriend of Prince Edward "astonished" the Duchess of York when she asked her to take part in a publicity stunt showing her being sprayed with water in an empty swimming pool. The Daily Telegraph reported.

The duchess, who is the former wife of Prince Andrew's brother, Prince Edward, was said to be "amused, if a little hurt," according to one of her friends. There is no prospect of the duchess accepting... the invitation from Rhys-Jones who has been hired to do public relations work for a London health club, the newspaper added.

Dalai Lama not easily recognised — Apple

HONG KONG (AFP) — U.S.-based Apple Computer will not run a new advertisement featuring the Dalai Lama in Asia because it claims the Tibetan spiritual leader is not easily recognised, a newspaper reported Monday. A spokesman for the Dalai Lama in London

ridiculed the decision, claiming the company was afraid of a backlash from Beijing. "I think that Apple Computer does not want to offend the Chinese," Tseten Samdup told the newspaper.

U.S. political heavyweight shed pounds out of humiliation

WASHINGTON (AFP) — It was humiliation that led House of Representatives leader Newt Gingrich to shed excess pounds, the U.S. political heavyweight recalls in his memoirs. The Republican House speaker, in his "Lessons Learned the Hard Way," remembers a conversation with Senate leader Trent Lott. "He told me I should wear a certain kind of shirt, and that I should lean forward so as to minimise for the camera how overweight I had become," Gingrich wrote.

"I was bathed in embarrassment," he said. The House leader has since shed about 13.6 kg and a photo of a slimmer, trimmer Gingrich in jeans and a leather jacket graces the cover of his book.

Spielberg interested in Hollywood remake of French film

PARIS (AFP) — Steven Spielberg is interested in a Hollywood remake of a French comedy film that has just been adapted from the stage. Francis Veber, who wrote and produced "Le Diner de Cons" (literally, "The Jerks' Dinner"), said Spielberg had asked for a copy of the film, which is due for release here on April 15. "I don't know how negotiations will go, but it astounds me to think that this man, who is a legend, was watching my little film and laughing," Veber said, clearly overjoyed.

World

Bahrain starts naval exercises with U.S., U.K.

MANAMA (AP) — Bahrain, the 1,200-sq-km island nation in the Persian Gulf, began naval exercises with the U.S. and U.K. on Monday. The eight-day exercises, which include the use of two U.S. Navy destroyers and the U.K.'s HMS Dryad, are the first of their kind since the 1991 Gulf War. The exercises are part of a larger effort to strengthen military cooperation between Bahrain and its allies. The U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet, based in Japan, is also participating in the exercises. The exercises will conclude on Monday, April 14.

Volume 23 Number 6811

King him Shmeisa

Next Thursday

be a turning p

By Tareq Ayoub

and in the Jordan Times

MANAMA — His Majesty King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia is expected to visit Bahrain on Tuesday. The visit is part of a larger effort to strengthen ties between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The King is expected to arrive in Bahrain on Tuesday morning and will stay at the Bahraini Royal Palace. The visit will last for three days. The King will be accompanied by a large entourage. The visit is expected to be a success.

His Majesty

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